Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

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£1m MOVE TO UPDATE DEPOT

Report By Clare Butler

A NEAR £1m transformation of a crumbling council depot bringing hundreds of staff under one roof is in the pipeline.

The revamp of the Lister Road site in Dudley forms part of a proposed shake-up that will see the main Stourbridge tip in Birmingham Street close and Leys Depot in Brierley Hill become the main waste centre for the borough.

Council bosses want to redevelop the Lister Road depot – home to its waste services staff, gritting trucks, and pot-hole repair teams – bringing it 'up to date'.

Under a planning application now lodged, it wants to improve site security and safety while also creating a new five-storey office block.

Leader Patrick Harley

Councillor Patrick Harley, the new leader of Dudley Council, said: "The offices in Lister Road are really dilapidated and do need repairing. This is something that is much needed and will bring the site back up to date. We need to get everyone more centralised so that they can be working all together."

The plans for the new hub state: "The Lister Road Depot has significant underlying investment need, which is estimated to be in excess of £900,000.

Asbestos

"Similar to the Leys Depot, the site has serious structural defects, extensive asbestos issues and dilapidated 'temporary' buildings."

The plan involves demolition of the existing buildings to be replaced with a gritter storage canopy, ancillary building, paint booth, office building and car park.

A phased construction of the site would take place, meaning the existing facility would continue to operate without interruption.

Staff moving to the new-look Lister Road site would include hundreds of office staff from Leys Road, where the housing department and asbestos teams are based. Those from the current Lister Road offices will also transfer to the new building.

Council bosses want to sell off the Birmingham Street tip in Stourbridge and make the Leys Depot the central base for waste disposal. Neighbouring land on Birmingham Street has already been developed for a Premier Inn hotel with fast food chains also moving in nearby.

Bosses say the Leys Road depot will be able to take more vehicles and is better equipped to handle recycling. The plans are currently for consultation.

IT'S HOME FROM CONE FOR THE RED HOUSE GNOME

Jake Burden, 12, from Kingswinford, has found one of the shy gnomes in hiding at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley

CHILDREN are putting their detective skills to the test at a popular Black Country attraction during the Whitsun holiday.

Families have been flocking to the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley to take part in the free gnomes and fairies trail.

The event, which runs throughout half term and finishes on Saturday, is the first of its kind at the glass heritage attraction on High Street.

It allows youngsters to explore the site looking for the gnomes hidden around the site.

At the heart of the Stourbridge glassmaking industry, the Red House Glass Cone was built at the end of the 18th century and continued to produce glasswares until 1936. It is the only complete glass cone in the area and one of only four left in the UK.

The attraction also hosts glass blowing demonstrations and craft activities

For more information visit www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums or call (01384) 815571.

COURT

Boy charged over store 'explosive'

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy has been charged with making explosives after a supermarket in Blackheath was evacuated following a fire. Hundreds fled from the Sainsbury's store on Saturday as armed officers swarmed onto the site at 12.10pm.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was appearing in court on Monday charged with possession of a bladed article and further charges of making an explosive substance and maliciously causing an explosive substance to endanger life. He was remanded in custody. No-one was hurt in the incident.

HOUSING

Homes proposed to redevelop site

A THREE-STOREY apartment block with 16 homes will be built under plans unveiled by council bosses.

Dudley Council wants to redevelop the site in Beech Road, Kingswinford, which is currently home to shops and maisonettes.

The existing buildings would be demolished and replaced with the new-build. It would provide 16 one, two and three-bedroom flats and the new block has been designed in a style in keeping with the character of the area.

MONUMENT

Iron men statue to honour Darby

PLANS have been unveiled for a memorial which will honour one of the founding fathers of the Industrial Revolution who was born in Dudley.

A statue is to be installed in Woodsetton which will feature figures of two people smelting iron. It will honour Abraham Darby I, born in Woodsetton in 1678.

He found a quicker and more effective way of producing iron which helped to spark the industrial revolution. His grandson – Abraham Darby III – went on to build the world-famous Ironbridge in Shropshire.

The statue is being designed by Dudley artist Steve Field.

INSIDE

BOSTIN' FESTIVAL IS ON THE WAY

PAGE 9

CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
CLUBS	17
GARDENING	20
THE TICKET	25
BRAIN GYM	31
MOTORING	33 & 34
SPORT	39 & 40

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Club to improve security after gun scare

A NIGHTCLUB in Stourbridge has been ordered to tighten security after a man allegedly 'waved' a shotgun in the face of door staff.

The Stourbridge Academy, in Hagley Road, will have to improve measures surrounding CCTV cameras, limit opening hours and supply body cameras forsecurity staff.

Police said that their concerns had 'intensified' after limited footage was supplied to them following the alleged firearms incident that took place in the early hours of April 23.

Detective Constable Anthony Hamilton, of West Midlands Police, said: "There was an incident outside of the club that a recovery truck rammed a vehicle a number of times and someone allegedly got out and waved a sawed-off shotgun in the bouncers face and tried to get in. But unfortunately we do not have CCTV footage of acceptable quality.

Relationship

"There had been a good working relationship with the club two years ago but we now feel that there has been a discerning lack of cooperation from them."

During an licensing meeting on May 2 'interim steps' were put in place, including earlier closing times and having three door staff present, with two outside during opening hours. Leo Charalambides, speaking on behalf of the club, said: "These premises have been here under the same management for 23 years and are a community asset. The problem here was with the CCTV but that can be remedied. There was no systematic managerial failure except for one camera, which is a problem we were willing to put right."

Richard Clark, legal advisor of the committee, said despite being 'extremely concerned' he felt it did not warrant suspension of the licence.

The committee limited licensing hours to 3am and closing times to 3.30am on Friday and Saturdays. CCTV must be recording to the specification of the police. The club is considering an appeal.

Killer driver was using two mobile phones

A SPEEDING motorist was 'juggling' with two phones moments before killing a 66-year-old pedestrian, a judge heard.

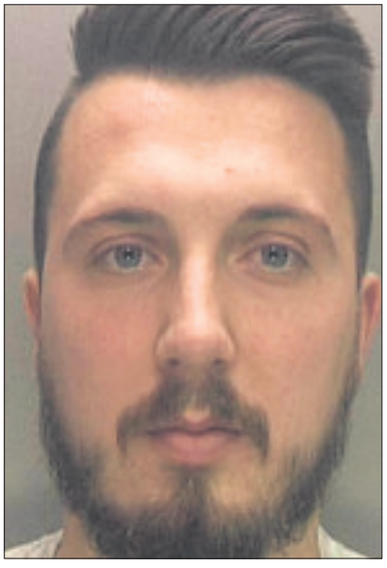
Ryan Freeth sent a text message and tried to make two calls on one mobile while playing music on the other, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Then the 27-year-deleted the telltale usage from both and denied causing the death of Leslie Marks for eight months while police recovered the data, it was said.

"For a period of minutes up to the point of impact, whilst driving at unsuitable speed, he was also juggling his attention between two different phones," said Mr Malcolm Morse, prosecuting.

Unmarried Mr Marks was walking home from Sunday lunch with his brother and sister-in-law when hit by the Vauxhall Corsa driven by Freeth as he crossed the road at the junction of the High Street and Brettell Lane, in Amblecote, at 6.50pm on November 29, 2015.

He was flung 5ft into the air and hurled over the bonnet into the road where he was then run over by a BMW 4x4, continued Mr Morse.



Driver Ryan Freeth was distracted by his phones

Victim Leslie Marks, 66, was flung into the air

Distracted

But the catastrophic head injury caused by the collision with the Corsa was unsurvivable although his death may have been accelerated by further injuries inflicted by the other car, ruled a pathologist.

Freeth was on his way to play football and continued for a short distance before calling his parents who took him to police officers at the scene of the accident. A breath test proved negative.

Experts could not agree on the precise speed of the Corsa but agreed it was travelling 'significantly' above the 30mph limit with the driver 'avoidably distracted'.

Mrs Gosia Marks, the sister-in-law of the victim, said in a statement: "He was a lovely person, kind, gentle and generous." She revealed the death had badly affected her husband George but added: "While we do not want to feel sorry for the defendant neither do we feel anger against him because that would be counter productive."

Mr Talbir Singh, defending, said Freeth had sent a text message and attempted two calls on one phone before the accident while the other was deployed as a 'music device' but insisted neither was in use at the point of impact.

Freeth from Marshall Crescent, Wordsley, pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving and was jailed for four years five months with a five year driving ban after he has been released.

Judge Simon Ward told him: "Analysis of the your phones showed you had been using instant messaging and making several calls about the time your car struck Mr Marks.

Data

"You knew the phone data was incriminating and this must have been a factor in your decision to delete the calls and text messages which you now accept doing."

Speaking after the hearing, Sergeant Alan Wood, from the regional Collision Investigation Unit, said: "We believe that Freeth left the scene of the collision to try to cover his tracks. When we investigated the collision we revealed that Freeth had been driving at excessive speed and that he had been talking to a friend on his mobile phone at the time.

"The driving ban will not come into effect until he is released from prison and then he will have to wait a further five years before he can take a driving test, meaning he will not be able to drive for many years to come. He has been served with justice and we hope that the sentencing will offer some comfort to Mr Marks' family and also act as a deterrent to other people using mobile phones whilst driving."

Children's home jobs at risk after its takeover

DOZENS of jobs are at risk at a children's home near Stourbridge following a takeover.

Bosses at Sunfield Children's Home said 'all roles are under review' due to financial challenges.

The independent special school at Clent employs more than 300 people and has recently been taken over by Ruskin Mill, and said it had 'become increasingly difficult to sustain the viability of high quality services'.

Letters have been sent to staff warning them that positions are under review. Teachers, managers, caretakers, cooks are all understood to be at risk.

Workers have now entered discussions with unions about their futures.

The school has been running for more than 80 years and supports children and young people aged between six and 19, many who have severe learning difficulties. It offers 38 to 52 week residential placements as well as day placements.

Principal Caroline Bell said: "In recent years, as a stand-alone charity, it has become increasingly difficult to sustain the viability of high quality, staff intensive services within this competitive and financially challenging sector.

"We are currently engaged in a collective consultation with the unions and looking at a number of cost-saving measures including non-staffing costs. During this process of consultation, all roles are under review, but Sunfield and the Ruskin Mill Trust (RMT) remain committed to providing a safe and compliant service."

Proposal for nine homes is rejected

PLANS to build homes on green belt land in Stourbridge have been refused.

Councillors were not prepared to let the piece of land on Norton Road be swallowed up by housing development.

A total of nine homes would have been built on the site, along with new access and space for parking.

Planning experts said there were no special circumstances to 'outweigh the harm' of allowing the green belt land to be built on.

Heyford Homes had come forward with the application to build the properties.

The plans came before Dudley Council's planning committee and members agreed they did not want to lose the open greenbelt land.

Concert band to perform at hall

A LEADING Midlands concert orchestra will be performing a free concert at Himley Hall on Sunday afternoon.

AD Concert Band, which is based in Solihull and recently celebrated 40 years, plays popular tunes and film themes. It will be performing from 2.30pm.

Fines over invasion of pitch at the Hawthorns

FOUR Chelsea fans and a Baggies supporter were handed fines after running on the pitch at the Hawthorns after the London club scored the winner which saw them crowned Premier League champions.

At Dudley Magistrates Court, Baggies supporter Andrew Oakley, 33, from Dudley, pleaded guilty to going on to the pitch.

Chelsea supporters James Healy, 37, of Portsmouth, Eugene Dunne, 48, of Northampton, Matthew Sutcliffe, 39, of Enfield and Michael Suthers, 31, of Sidcup, admitted the same charge.

Another Baggies supporter, Paul Stevenson, 54, of Fairmile Road, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to the same charge but was given a conditional discharge.

Dealing with Oakley, of Linden Road, and the four Chelsea supporters, Mr Kulbir Paul, prosecuting, said there was no suggestion any of them had been involved in violence.

"As Chelsea scored near to the end of the game, supporters ran on to the pitch, " he said. "In isolation I understand that this may seem minimal but we have to consider the impact on other fans and in this case I think it was quite severe."

Oakley, a labourer, was given a £56 fine, which had been reduced for his early guilty plea. He has to pay £135 costs and £30 victim surcharge.

Healy was given with a five-year football banning order, fined £166 and ordered to pay costs of £135 and victim surcharge of £30. Dunne was fined £160, costs of £135 and a £30 surcharge. Sutcliffe, a company director, was given a £160 fine and ordered to pay costs of £135 and a victim surcharge of £30. Suthers was fined £166 with £135 costs and £30 surcharge.

Asda opening to create 80 jobs

A NEW Asda store is due to open in Sedgley next month.

The supermarket giant has taken over the former Co-op store on High Holborn Street.

The move by Asda will create 80 jobs.

The supermarket is being fitted out in preparation for its opening in July.

Store manager Caroline Lang said: "We can't wait to complete our store transformation and to open the doors of Asda Sedgley to customers in July."

Bin lorry catches fire in the street

A BIN lorry caught fire in a residential street in Dudley and was tackled by 13 firefighters.

It happened in Corbyn Road, at 10.45am on Friday, and the cause was accidental.

Overdue library book turns up in USA

The book in Kentucky

A LOST library book missing from Dudley for eight years has finally turned up – 4,000 miles away.

The book – The Wildest Province: SOE In the Land of the Eagle – was borrowed in 2009 but was never returned.

It has now mysteriously shown up – in the US state of Kentucky, leaving librarians baffled.

Dudley Library staff were left stunned when they were contacted by the Boone County Public Library in Burlington, Kentucky, to say the book had been handed in there.

Jen Beardsmore, head of libraries and archives at Dudley Council, said: "We always make efforts to get any outstanding books back but to be honest after eight years we'd written this off. You can imagine our surprise when out of the blue we had an email from the librarians in Kentucky saying it had been handed in there."

The book, written by Roderick Bailey, was published in 2008 and is a true account of a group of British soldiers on a mission in Albania during the Second World War.

Dudley Library fines 20p a day for books which are not returned. However, the person who took out the book eight years ago would not be facing a near £600 bill as fines are capped at £4.

Becky Kempf, public relations manager at Boone County Public Library, said: "The book was just dropped off with a bunch of others. We have books donated and there is no way of knowing who it was.We opened it up and saw it belonged to a library in England."

Mrs Kempf said: "Dudley Library said we could keep it as we would have incurred some costs sending it back. We have a book discussion group and they are passing it around."

Father still numb after loss of his wife and son

"I'M still numb. It's still very raw. The loss of a wife and child – it's impossible to put into words."

Peter Wilkinson fought back tears as he spoke of his wife Tracey and 13-year-old son Pierce, who were so cruelly taken from him.

Just weeks on from the horrific incident which tore this family apart, the 47-year-old struggled as he considered what now seems an impossible task of trying to rebuild his life without them.

Mr Wilkinson was speaking as it was announced the funerals of wife Tracey, 50, and son Pierce, who were killed in an stabbing at the family home in Stourbridge, would be held on Wednesday, June 7.

The company director, who is being comforted by his student daughter Lydia, said he wanted the service to be an 'uplifting' event despite the terrible circumstances of their deaths.

Those attending the funeral in Oldswinford have been told they do not need to wear black.

The grief-stricken father, who was left fighting for his life after the attack in Greyhound Lane, said he remains 'numb' after what happened and is merely 'existing' day to day.

His wife and son both died after suffering multiple stab wounds at the property on March 30.

The joint funeral will be held at St Mary's Church in Oldswinford on June 7, from 11am.

Mr Wilkinson said: "Black is not compulsory. Just because we want the funeral to be uplifting and not a dark ceremony.

"Pierce was taken so young, so it is not a celebration. They would have wanted people to be thinking of them, not necessarily mourning."

Support

It had started like any other morning. The father had gone to take his greyhound for a walk but returned home to a scene of horror – and then he, too, was attacked.

Mr Wilkinson, who is a managing director at Hill & Smith and Asset International in Bilston, said he was struggling to come to terms with the loss of his wife and son.

Asked how he is coping, the devastated father replied: "Existing. I still get very emotional about it.

"Day to day I am getting through to hopefully a brighter place in the future."

He said daughter Lydia, 18, who was away at university in Bristol at the time of the attack, had been an invaluable support.

Mr Wilkinson said: "She has been a massive support. She is very strong.

"She was told to expect the worst so finding out I was going to live was an uplifting point for her."

Merely 'existing' day to day – Peter Wilkinson is comforted by his 18-year-old daughter Lydia

Mr Wilkinson, who continues to recover from his injuries, said he plans to go back to work full-time at some point but does not know when that will be.

"Physically, I am making a good recovery from what was major trauma. I was saved on the operating table," he said.

"It is a long road to recovery, a number of months.

"I am still on painkillers, it will be a long while."

The room in which Mr Wilkinson sat was lined with cards from well-wishers.

He said: "The support from friends, the outpouring of grief and support from the general public has been phenomenal.

"You never think this is going to happen to you. People have done everything they can to support us and I am extremely grateful for that."

Reflecting on the tragedy, he added: "We were a close family, a normal, close family. We have just been ripped apart by this."

Aaron Barley, 23, has admitted attempting to murder Mr Wilkinson. He is also charged with murdering Tracey and Pierce but has yet to enter pleas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New crossing on road near school

A CROSSING will be installed on a busy road in Sedgley following concerns from parents.

The zebra crossing will be put in place on the Northway, near Alder Coppice School.

Councillor Michael Evans: "It's a busy road and there's a lot of parked cars either side of the road at school time. The crossing is good news and will make things a lot safer."

It comes as Dudley Council announced it would take action to improve safety on notorious roads across the borough.

Latest production out of this world

A THEATRE company from Stourbridge which features actors with learning disabilities is performing its latest production later this month at it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Side by Side will be staging Worlds Beyond in Stourbridge Town Hall from Wednesday, June 21, to Saturday, June 24.

The show is set on a starship and offers a mix of music and dance.

Tickets are £10 and are available from The French Deli, Coventry Street, by calling 07880 437117 or from the www.sbstcs.org website.

Stalls are wanted for forces day

STALLHOLDERS are being sought for an Armed Forces Day event at Himley which is promising to be bigger and better than ever.

It will be held at Himley Hall and Park on Sunday, June 25, to celebrate the work of servicemen and women past and present. Stallholders are encouraged to apply for a trade stand. Sellers of vintage clothing and accessories are especially sought after. To apply email jessica.haines@dudley.gov.uk or call (01384) 817449.

Vineyard hosting food and drink festival

A FOOD and Wine Festival is being held at Halfpenny Green Vineyard, near Dudley, on Saturday, June 10.

The more than 15 businesses on the vineyard estate will be joined by stallholders offering such wares as gin and liqueurs, beer, chocolate, sauces, preserves, marinades and seasonings.

There will also be live music during the festival, which will open at 10.30am, at the award-winning vineyard on Tom Lane, near Bobbington.

Dave's great run

MARATHON man Dave Heeley completed the Manchester 10k race on Sunday just days after the city was hit by a bomb outrage. The Baggies-mad blind athlete from West Bromwich took on the run as part of his challenge to take on every Great Run in the UK during 2017 – 24 in total.

COUNTY NEWS

Display of Lego builds fan base

HUNDREDS of Lego fans have visited a special exhibition of models made up of the toy plastic bricks since it opened at Wolverhampton Art Gallery last month.

The Great Wall of China, Niagara Falls, the Great Pyramid of Giza, and Old London Bridge all feature in master Lego artist Warren Elsmore's breathtaking Brick Wonders exhibition.

The 70-strong show, which also includes a modern surgical operating theatre, runs at the Lichfield Street gallery until Wednesday July 5.

Severn Trent sees profits increase

WATER company Severn Trent saw growth in both turnover and profits for its last financial year.

The firm, which serves 4.3 million customers across the Midlands and Mid Wales, said there had been strong operational improvements in the 12 months to the end of March.

Group turnover was ahead by 3.7 per cent at £1.81bn with pre-tax profit up 7.8 per cent to £544m. Severn Trent, which has the lowest combined average bills in Britain of £341 a year in 2017-2018, invested around £680m in 2016-2017 in its network.

It's in the can for film buffs

A CINEMA is holding its own 'Cans' film festival this summer. The alternative movie festival will see classic films screened at Birmingham's Electric Cinema, in Station Street – with canned beers and cider on hand.

Where possible, the brewmaster will be introducing the film and sharing secrets of the canned beer trade. The Cans Festival opens on June 15 with High Fidelity, starring John Cusack to match Island Records Session IPA.

Boredom afflicts half of workers

BOREDOM afflicts more than half of workers in the West Midlands, new statistics from CV-Library, the jobs website, has found.

Of the 51.3 per cent that admitted to boredom, almost two-thirds (62.7 per cent) said they had looked for a new job as a result of a dull work life.

The survey, which asked 1,200 professionals about boredom at work, found almost a third (31.3 per cent) of workers in the region admitted to feeling bored every day.

Ballet bound for Brum

THE Birmingham Royal Ballet will be putting on a family favourite show later this month. The company will bring its production of Coppélia to Birmingham Hippodrome. It will run for five nights from June 13 until June 17. Tickets start from £16 from www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Criminals worked with Albanian gangsters

THEY were a small-town gang doing big business with Albanian gangsters in a £3m cocaine ring.

The drugs were sold on the streets of the West Midlands for more than six months before the racket was smashed by police in Operation Diesel.

Much of the illegal activity happened within a half-mile radius of Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, near the homes of most of the group. Plastic bags holding tens of thousands of pounds of cash or £100,000 drug deliveries changed hands on street corners and pub car parks.

The gang leader – Mercedes-driving, convicted drug dealer Craig Davies – admitted they bought '12-14 kilos' of high purity cocaine from the London-based Albanians between June and December. Detectives on the case reckon it was closer to 25-35 kilos.

The haul was smuggled from South America through Europe to the UK where Khalad Uddin saw it passed to the Kingswinford gang. He was also involved in buying two 9mm handguns and live ammunition on a Kingswinford car park in August and kept a bulletproof vest at his luxury home.

When police raided the penthouse in Scholars Mews, Oxford, which he paid £28,000-a-year to rent, they found £439,000 cash at the address and another property linked to him. Officers also discovered a ten-ton hydraulic press used to block adulterated cocaine.

Urbane Uddin came from a respected family and, like his four siblings, had a good schooling before turning to crime and earning a small fortune. He spent £63,000 in just three years renting cars.

Luxury

On September 24 last year he flew off on a luxury golf break near Malaga with 29-year-old Davies and David Stokes, aged 31, from Tennyson Way, Kidderminster. Within hours Uddin was on the phone over a drugs deal involving Jamie Green, from Water Street, Kingswinford, and 39-year-old Albanian courier Emil Cami. The pair were ordered to meet in Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston.

The golfers jetted home on September 27, hours before Green and Cami met again, this time at the British Oak pub in Kingswinford. A package was exchanged in the car park. Cami was directed to the Cat Inn in Bridgnorth Road, Enville, where David Stokes pushed a bundle of cash through the window of the car of the Albanian, who headed back to Edgware, where he and his cousins Ylber – the 39-year-old head of the Cami gang is serving a ten year jail term – and Eraldo, 23, had homes.

On September 28 Emil was back in Kingswinford meeting Green again, in Stallings Lane, for another drug drop. But they weren under surveillance by detectives. On July 4 Uddin, Davies, Stokes and Green were photographed at the Beefeater pub in Dudley Road, Kingswinford, where Uddin was handed a package of cash. There was another meeting there on July 27 while James Bishop, from Vicarage Road, Stourbridge, travelled to Oxford for three meetings with Uddin during which exchanges of cash and drugs were covertly filmed by police.

Uddin was pictured walking out of a branch of McDonalds clutching a plastic bag believed to hold £30,000 worth of drugs. Other places where cash and cocaine are thought to have been exchanged included the car park of the Manor pub in Kinver, Sixes Football Centre in Ham Lane and a caravan site on the same road. There were also seizures in Bristol, Oxford and at Bray Marina, Maidenhead.

Cocaine gang smashed as crooks sent to prison

A MULTI-MILLION pound cocaine ring in which Black Country drug dealers worked with Albanian gangsters has been smashed as its members start prison sentences totalling more than 99 years.

The racket stretched from London, through the Midlands to Cornwall until police made 13 arrests and seized of drugs worth up to £500,000.

A dozen of those involved were each locked up bBut Khalad Uddin, the 'spider at the centre of the web', will not be sentenced until June 9 for conspiracy to supply cocaine. He was jailed for 14 years earlier this month at Wolverhampton Crown Court for the purchase of two 9mm handguns, recovered when detectives swooped minutes after the deal was completed in a Kingswinford car park.

The five-strong West Midlands gang, based in Kingswinford, paid around £35,000 a kilo of cocaine from the Albanians that made more than £100,000 when sold in street deals, explained Mr Amjad Malik, QC, prosecuting.

Leader

Craig Davies, their 29-year-old leader, was in regular contact with Uddin and continued to buy drugs despite knowing his right-hand-man, David Stokes, had been held by police.

The first arrests were made around two months before the ring was wound up. The cocaine, up to 90 per cent purity, came a kilo at a time from London in cars with hiding places.

Officers got evidence of up to 17 drug drops, which included similar deals struck through Uddin between the Albanians and other criminals in Cornwall and Berkshire, the last saw a single £500,000 delivery of cocaine seized by police. Two men involved in that were among those jailed.

James Bishop

Callum Bradley

Craig Davies

Khalad Uddin

David Stokes

Ylber Cami

Judge Murray Creed said: "This was a sophisticated enterprise involving many people at different levels and meetings throughout the UK and in Spain, mainly involving the Black Country group."

Davies, from Willow Rise, Brierley Hill, was jailed for 15 years, six months. Right-hand-man Stokes, a 31-year-old electrician and father-of-two from Kidderminster was sentenced to 14 years, six months. He recruited friend James Bishop, a 33-year-old electrician, from Vicarage Road, Stourbridge, who went to Oxford to meet Uddin on three occasions for drugs or cash. Bishop was paid up to £600 per trip and was jailed for eight years.

Cocaine addict Jamie Green had a kilo of cocaine stuffed up his tracksuit top when police swooped. The 36-year-old, of Water Street, Kingswinford, –was locked up for nine years, four months.

Callum Bradley, 30, of Ashwood Marina, was jailed for three years, eight months. All the defendants, including Uddin, 35, of Scholars Mews, Oxford, admitted conspiracy to supply cocaine.

Skinner's TV documentary on way about his hero Ali

DETAILS of an upcoming Frank Skinner documentary about Muhammad Ali have been confirmed.

The comedian from the Black Country has been seen filming at his boxing heroes training camp in Pennsylvania in recent months.

It is one of several locations Skinner visited for the one-off, hour-long programme, which will air on BBC One at a date to be fixed. In Ali's hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, he meets the next-door neighbour who witnessed the teenage boxer's single-minded dedication to his craft. He meets Ali's younger brother Rahaman, a key figure in the boxer's entourage and he also meets Ali's wife Khalilah, who stood alongside her husband when he was banned from boxing for refusing to fight in Vietnam.

Skinner also met the bare-knuckle boxer from an Oxfordshire council estate who became one of Ali's dearest friends and the actor who played alongside Ali in a little-known musical on Broadway.

A BBC statement said: "This documentary special will be more than a profile piece on the greatest sporting hero of the 20th century, it's also a very personal journey filled with Frank's own expertise and insight.'

The comic himself said: "I loved Ali since I was a child. I loved the warrior, the entertainer, the craziness that surrounded him. I met him, as a trembling fanboy, a few times in the 1990s, but I only had the courage to ask for an autograph and a couple of photos."

Runners helping to fight slavery

A CHARITY fun run to help raise awareness of modern slavery is taking place in the Black Country next weekend.

The Pits Stop fun run will take place in Walsall Arboretum between noon and 4pm on Saturday, June 10.

The 2.5 km route will start in the Arboretum extension, go round the lake, and back through the Beacon Gate.

Runners can choose to do 5km or 10km. There is no registration fee for entering the event but charity Pits Stop welcomes donations.

The family fun will also include a bouncy castle and face painting.

All money raised will go towards Hope for Justice's Hope Challenge 2017, an annual fundraising event to help free those trapped in slavery.

Street food festival at canalside venue

A STREET food festival will take place tomorrow evening (Friday) in Stourbridge. Street Food Affair will be held at the Bonded Warehouse in Canal Street, where there will be food and drink retailers, entertainers and a flea market from 5pm to 9pm.

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Parking fines raise more than £500,000

MORE than half a million pounds has been clocked up in car parking fines in Dudley borough over the past 12 months.

The amount made from fines rose above the £500,000 mark during 2016/17 as thousands of drivers were made to pay for parking indiscretions by Dudley Council, a Freedom of Information request has revealed. It also found the roads where drivers are most likely to be fined. Almost 1,500 penalty charge notices were dished out on Castle Street – almost double than on any other street.

Other high earners included Stourbridge High Street with 851, Dudley High Street (747) and Wolverhampton Street in Dudley (671).

Hundreds of fines were also issued on New Street, Dudley; Lower High Street, Stourbridge; and Stone Street, Dudley.

The highest earning car park in terms of fines was Manor Park in Kingswinford, where 485 were issued.

Another hot spot was High Street, Pensnett, near Russells Hall Hospital where visitors have to pay to park.

The amount brought in from parking fines rose by £65,000 from a year earlier.

A total of 9,772 fines were handed out on the top 20 roads and car parks over the 12-month period.

Drivers who fail to pay on car parks or park on double yellow lines and other restricted areas are hit with fines of up to £70. However, the amount is cut by half if paid within 14 days.

Tip closure plan may be abandoned

CONTROVERSIAL plans to close Stourbridge tip could now be scrapped following the change in leadership at Dudley Council.

Conservative councillors raised concerns about the plan when it was put forward by Labour.

Now new Tory council leader Patrick Harley said the proposals would be reviewed.

Waste operations were to be shifted to Brierley Hill under the plans, sparking concerns over traffic clogging up surrounding roads.

Councillor Harley said: "We will have a traffic impact assessment and liaise with ward councillors in Brockmoor, Wordsley and Brierley Hill.

"If it is not suitable we will put a stop to it."

Votes bring in £700 for charities

MEMBERS who voted at Tipton and Coseley Building Society's annual meetinghelped raise nearly £700 for Black Country charities. For every online, branch and postal vote, the Tipton pledged money to charity.

Couple in plea over stolen pet pug

Pet Pug Herbie has been stolen

"WE are absolutely devastated, we just want him back," says a Hagley woman whose beloved 10-month-old pug was stolen.

Rachael Wootton, aged 31, was on holiday in Marbella in Spain with her husband Alex, 31, last Wednesday when their pug Herbie was stolen.

The pet was taken from Rachael's parents home in Coven, near Wolverhampton, as they were looking after him during the holiday.

Burglars broke the heavily-padlocked gate to the side of the property before trying to break in through the back of the house at around 2.45pm on Wednesday.

The thieves triggered the house alarm as they smashed through one of the conservatory panes of glass, and then totally removed the back kitchen window to get in.

When Lynne and Peter Banks, returned home from Peter's hospital appointment, they spotted the usually-locked gate was open.

Mrs Banks said: "I was pulling onto the drive and I saw the padlocked gate was swinging open and I just got hysterical. I went round and saw the conservatory and kitchen window smashed. Then we went in and saw Herbie had been taken from his cage. I was so upset."

Rachael Wootton, who is a tax adviser, said: "As soon as we found out the news, we got on the first plane home. It is so frightening to think that the burglars were so determined to get him. It just makes it so much worse because my nan died only a couple of weeks ago, so it makes the sense of loss even worse."

Anyone with any information is advised to call the police on 101.

Call for action after hospital misses target

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital fell below the national target for seeing patients within four hours during April.

The national target is 95 per cent but just 85 per cent of A&E patients were seen within the NHS limit.

The figures will be presented to a board meeting today (Thursday).

Councillor Paul Brothwood, leader of the UKIP party in Dudley, labelled the waiting time as being both 'outrageous' and 'unacceptable'. He said: "It is clear that senior management needs to be looked at.

"I think that it is outrageous. We are constantly in a battle of more money being spent on agency staff and then figures like this are being revealed and it is quite frankly unacceptable.

Failed

"We know the stresses that are on our hospital staff but these waiting times need to be brought down.

"It seems that walk-in clinics have also failed in doing their bit."

Councillor Brothwood added: "We are continually relying on agency staff due to the huge cuts within the sector, and this is showing in these figures. It is clearlynow taking its toll on the NHS."

It comes as it was revealed at the start of this year that an influx of patients had been admitted to the hospital over the Christmas and New Year period.

Hospital chiefs revealed that around 620 patients had attended A&E each day and said the hospital was experiencing 'unprecedented demand', leading to increased waiting times in A&E.

People coming into A&E increased by six per cent overall compared to the same period last year, which itself was described as 'extremely busy'.

Due to being in a pre-election period, Trust bosses said they could only respond with a factual statement.

Diane Wake, Chief Executive at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation, said: "In April 2017, 84.94 per cent of patients who attended Accident and emergency were seen, treated, admitted or discharged within four hours of arrival.

"This figure is stated in the Trust's Finance and Performance report, which will be presented to public board on Thursday June 1, 2017."

Youngsters on ball to help Chelsi

Netherton Colts are raising money for six-year-old Chelsi Harris, who is being treated for leukaemia

A KIND-HEARTED football team held a fundraising campaign to raise money for a little girl with leukaemia.

Netherton Colts raised £1,150 for six-year-old Chelsi Harris, from Netherton, who is currently in and out of hospital undergoing treatment. The money was raised at three presentation evenings at the club in May that saw sports memorabilia auctioned off and raffles held.

After hearing about Chelsi's condition from a friend, Colts club treasurer Carl Bottley, said he wanted to do something to help. He explained: "Sadly Chelsi was diagnosed earlier this year. She is undergoing chemotherapy and is a poorly girl. I heard through some friends on Facebook that she was not very well and decided to get in touch with her parents and see what we could do to help.

"This money has been raised on behalf of all of Netherton Colts Football Club, everyone grouped together and wanted to do the best they can."

Mr Bottley is an avid charity fundraiser. Last year he raised more than £1,000 for charity in aid of three-year-old Skye-Summer Warren, from Halesowen, who had a rare brain disease. Another event for the Georgina Ward at Russells Hall Hospital raised nearly £2,000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Light aircraft in a crash landing

AN AIRCRAFT crashed at an airfield near Wolverhampton after overshooting a runway as it came in to land.

The Piper PA28 Warrior II crashed at Wolverhampton Airport, on Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, near Stourbridge, on Tuesday afternoon (May 23). Emergency services were called.

There were no reports of injuries but medics had to assess four occupants, aged in their 60s and 70s.

A spokesman for the airport said the plane overshot the runway crashing into a tyre wall. The Civil Aviation Authority will investigate.

Teenage Market at heritage site

RED House Glass Cone in Wordsley is staging an event as part of this summer's Black Country Festival.

A Bostin' Teenage Market will be held at the heritage site in High Street on July 15 and 16 from 10am to 4pm each day. Admission to the market will be free.

Young people from the area will be selling an variety of art, gifts and baked products. Stalls will be both inside and outside the Cone

Red House Glass Cone of only four surviving glass cones in the UK and is a grade II* listed building.

Chit Chat about art and nature

ARTIST Helen Garbett is the next speaker at Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust's Chit Chat monthly meeting.

She will be talking about her Artworks for Change project that gets disadvantaged and disabled people involved in creative activities.

Helen tries to reflect the beauty and fragility of the natural world.

Chit Chat takes place in the Gongoozler restaurant at the trust's base The Portal, off Birmingham New Road, Dudley, on Tuesday at 10am.

Songsmith Sunjay has a showcase concert

ACCLAIMED young blues/folk singer and songwriter Sunjay Brain is performing in Wolverhampton next month.

The Brierley Hill musician, who was a BBC Radio 2 young folk award nominee in 2012, will be appearing in Newhampton Arts Centre in Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton, on Saturday at 8pm.

Tickets cost £5 or £10 and are on sale from the box office on 01902 572090.

Talented teen on TV

A STUDENT from Stourbridge has made it through to the second round of Britain's Got Talent. A-level student Aimee Potter, aged 16 who attends in Old Swinford Hospital, impressed judges as she performed on stage with her cheerleading team Coventry Dynamite Ignite.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Weathering the storm of wrong forecasts

LIKE many of you, I got really excited about the weather forecasts telling us about an early start to summer and the sizzling bank holiday weekend. So on Saturday I poured myself a nice cool drink and sat on the patio to read the newspaper. At least I did for about an hour, before it became cold, dark and damp, and I had to go inside put a jumper on.

Then, with similar predictions for Sunday, I hunted out a nice country pub to sit outside. When it again turned cold and started raining. I suppose that is what we call a barbecue summer. And then there was Bank Holiday Monday, which was damp, overcast and gloomy.

And people wonder why we are sceptical about global warming.

❒❒❒

THE vigil in memory of the 22 killed in the Manchester bombing, which was held in Birmingham last week, was a fitting tribute and a great credit to those who turned up to pay their respects.

At least it was a credit to most of them. How sad that a few idiots had to spoil the event by trying to turn into a demo.

There really were some people who saw fit to turn out for this sombre occasion brandishing the all-too-predictable "Refugees welcome" placards. Do these people never take a day off? Do they ever talk about anything other than politics?

If the party leaders vying to be prime minister can suspend their hostilities for a few days, then surely these would-be Wolfie Smiths can do the same. What has a memorial to those murdered at a children's concert got to do with Government policy on refugees? Nothing.

There are debates to be had on the thorny subject of immigration and asylum, and there is a time and place to do that. A memorial to murder victims certainly isn't it.

❒❒❒

TIME was if you wanted to pick up an award for artistic endeavour, but were devoid of any talent, then the Turner Prize really was the only show in town.

But this year it seems that the Royal Horticultural Society has also got on board, with the award for Best Show Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The accolade went to James Basson, for what can only be described as resembling a fly-tipping hotspot in the grounds of a derelict building. A few rocks strewn on the ground, looking like a bit of builder's waste, accompanied by an unruly mass of weeds.

Basson says his creation "is not supposed to be pretty," but is "stark and monumentally brutal."

Which is pretty much what I say about my garden.

Wedding woes, gardening delights and terrible tragedy

Alan Partridge would be proud, after one radio presenter's recent on air quiz gaffe

Chelsea Flower Show's Joe Swift, still keeping up appearances among the hyacinths

Pippa Middleton's wedding and the cheeky pageboy, but hasn't it always been so?

Presenter's moor sorry after gaffe

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE spirit of Alan Partridge lives on at BBC Radio Leeds where presenter Nathan Turvey invited listeners to guess the identity of a 'well-known person who has been in the news this week' from a series of musical clues, including Suffer Little Children by the Smiths and Psycho Killer by Talking Heads. The answer was the Moors Murderer, Ian Brady. The BBC has apologised for this hideously crass blunder. I find myself wondering whether Nathan Turvey is related to Rik Mayall's inept 'investigative reporter' of blessed memory, Kevin Turvey.

SUMMERTIME and the living is easy. We humans are a tropical species, hairless and low-fat and born to be warm. A hot spell like this recreates the savannah and jungles of our ancient roots, and suits us very nicely. The one thing we fear is the cold. All this probably explains why, although we are all aware of global warming, you won't find many people who are scared of it. A few more degrees? Bring it on.

THIS is how it is going to be. The terrorists strike. Within hours the authorities reveal the suspect was "known to police." The floral tributes pile up. Our screens fill with images of smiling people, now dead or maimed. At a rally, the crowd declares it will not be intimidated. Religious leaders insist we are all united. Lots of candles are lit and some mawkish poetry is read. And then we wait for it all to happen again, as it surely will. For there is no end.

THESE Islamist fanatics, unlike the IRA, are not seeking any sort of settlement. Time is not an issue for them. Sometimes, fiction speaks more eloquently than fact. The aim of jihadists has never been expressed better than by Abu Nazir, the terrorist warlord in the excellent and well-researched US series Homeland. This is Nazir's chilling warning to the West: " Do you have the perseverance, the tenacity, the faith? Because we do. You can bomb us, starve us, occupy our holy places, but we will never lose our faith. We carry God in our hearts, our souls. To die is to join him. It may take a century, two centuries, three centuries, but we will exterminate you."

MEANWHILE, this from Harun Khan, secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, describing the Manchester bombing: "May the perpetrators face the full weight of justice both in this life and the next." Ah yes, the next life. That'll be the place where murdered children never really die but live as angels with the Baby Jesus. The place where the rich and haughty are brought down a peg, and the meek are exalted. The place where terrorists are martyrs, living in eternal paradise tended by beautiful virgins. Is it not time in this 21st century for a global acceptance that there is no hereafter? Let us move on. Without the promise of paradise there would be no suicide bombers.

I'M not sure whether anyone records such things but is this becoming a record year for birdsong? The volume, at all times of day, and the variety of birdsong is astonishing. I write this in the early afternoon as two big-mouthed blackbirds and a gabby goldfinch are giving it some welly in the garden. A sweet symphony to end a savage week.

IN middle age and old straw hat, doesn't Joe Swift, presenter of Chelsea Flower Show, look the image of his father? Clive Swift, 81, is best known as Richard Bucket, the eternally suffering husband in the BBC sitcom Keeping Up Appearances. When Joe looks to camera introducing the begonias at Chelsea, you half-expect him to come out with: "Oh, for goodness' sake, Hyacinth . . ."

AFTER my gripping account of my holiday-cuisine creation, Pilchard Surprise (boil a pilchard in pasta sauce until it disintegrates), here's something more enticing. I took an old bottle of Madeira on our all-boys holiday to Scotland and used it to create a dessert with all the healthy, well-intentioned fruit packed by our wives. I give you Madeira Delight. 1) Put a layer of chopped apples and pears in a bowl, cover with Madeira, add a little sugar and taste. 2) Add a layer of chopped bananas, cover with Madeira, add a little sugar and taste. 3) Add a layer of tangerine segments, cover with Madeira, add a little sugar and taste. 4) Place in fridge for three hours. 5) Try to remember where you put it.

A RARE sight. I followed a Hillman Avenger all the way from Glasgow to Carlisle. Most of these once-cherished saloons have rotted away. I believe it was called the Avenger to fight for sales against Ford's all-conquering Cortina. Time teaches us that the real avenger of cars built before the 1990s was rust.

AFTER that pageboy flicked a V-sign during Pippa Middleton's wedding, a photographer writes to the Daily Telegraph complaining bitterly about "the current craze for posturing, pouting and V-signs in photographs." A current craze? Come off it. In our official school photograph of 1965, one first-former in the front row sticks his tongue out while his mate gives a V-sign. It was pure madness with no hope of escape and as soon as the photographer delivered his prints, vengeance for the two boys was swift and painful.

TALKING POINT

My heroic vigilante with write on his side

WE are told to never meet our heroes, in case it turns out to be a let down.

But I have a new favourite person with whom I would just love to come face to face with. And I know it would not be a disappointment. The trouble is, I do not know who he is. Nobody does.

My new hero is as mysterious as the artist Banksy, but he deals in far more serious matters, righting wrongs under cover of darkness liked a caped crusader. He is the self-proclaimed Grammar Vigilante.

We have all seen what is known as grocer's English, market stalls advertising 'cauliflower's' or shops selling pairs of 'sock's' for example.

In my home town there's even a barber with a sign promoting 'haircut's' and a 'shoppers car park', with no apostrophe, presumably as the sign writers could not decide where one went. I have even seen a pub advertising 'bar snack's'.

This is where the Grammar Vigilante comes in, correcting shop signs in his home city of Bristol, saving the world from poor English standards.

Wherever there's an errant apostrophe, he is there. If a word needs punctuation adding, he is there for that too, using a specially made kit he calls an apostrophiser, basically an extended broom handle with a sticker on the end.

From a journalist's point of view, I am biased of course, but poor spelling and bad grammar is so frustrating to see. So for that, Mr Grammar Vigilante, we salute you.

And when we are told in the summer that English exam results are better than ever maybe we should give him some credit, particularly when it seems at the minute that so many people are ignorant to the difference between the words their, there and they're. Or you're and your.

Some clearly do not know how to recognise plurals or possessives and shorthand text speak (ur or yr, for example), doesn't help.

Our man has been operating for 13 years, but remains anonymous, claiming what he does is a job worth pursuing.

The reaction to his heroic deeds has been mainly positive, with one thanking him for covering up the rogue apostrophe in his sign for 'Cambridge Motor's'. However one business owner took offence to the correcting of the word gentlemen's, going so far as to describe our man's antics as rude.

Another critic even said our man should take a look at his own monicker as apostrophes are punctuation, not grammar.

Whatever one's own take on the matter, every high street is littered with such errors and I would suggest our mystery man spreads his work around the country, or at the very least councils employ someone to do a similar job.

They could start in Wolverhampton, where, I kid you not, there is as big a banner as you can see promoting 'Jone's Lane WMC'!

MARK SHIPP

Hands off the free bus passes, they're vital

I HAVE long believed the so called Winter Fuel Allowance to be one of those bribes to us crusty old devils. Obviously, any party offering this, or maybe increasing it, results in us firing up the Zimmer frame and jumping the red light in order to place our cross against the party in question.

Actually, what it should be called is Pension Christmas Bonus. Am I to believe that Lord Dunfunkington in his London £20 million pad actually needs this? Do I believe that Jim and Jane in the Canaries are feeling the cold?

So no prob with me if I have to put my hand into my wallet next Christmas instead of using my Christmas bonus.

Then of course we have the much discussed and apparently vitally important Triple Lock. No longer will us pensioners (the ladies dripping in gold, the blokes resplendent in Armani suits) get that two and half per cent on our already-inflated pensions. Seriously though, this was yet another gimmick.

Then of course I've stuck two fingers up to the Grim Reaper long enough to be provided with a free TV licence. I'd probably lose that with means testing.

The only caveat in all of this is that should an army of pen pushers be employed to work a system of means testing, then the status quo no matter how ridiculous should prevail.

As to free bus passes, touch not. In my experience these are not used by Lord or Lady Dunfunkinton but are vital for poorer pensioners.

Free prescriptions for the richer are also something which might be examined. I have to say though that whilst I am prepared to go along with these measures, I am heartily sick and tired about hearing how well pensioners are treated.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

Will canal karma be a lesson?

I'M not sure if you knew what I meant when I said 'karma' to you when you were complaining loudly as I passed you by on my canal walk the other day.

Your vocabulary seemed somewhat limited.

As I followed you, I saw you watch your rather large dog deposit his waste in the middle of the canal towpath and then saw you walk away and leave it there.

Just a minute or two later, while immersed in your phone, you stepped into what some other uncaring, irresponsible dog owner had allowed their dog to leave too.

Oh the joy of seeing you on the receiving end and knowing the disgust and filth of it on your nice, white, probably new, trainers.

It was satisfaction beyond belief.

But will it change your ways? I doubt it.

JENNY JAMES
Dudley

Closure of beauty spot is a dreadful stain on the town

THE closure of Uffmoor Wood is a sad reflection on our town.

To the distinction of having the ugliest major roundabout in the UK, the Halesowen railway line never being protected for future use, the town's Lapal Canal being so badly 'restored' that it could never be filled with water, must be added now, this stain on the town.

My daughter when hearing of the news wrote home: "That is dreadful. What's the matter with some people? And how embarrassing that the first time action has ever been taken like this is in Halesowen."

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

Roads not homeless is priority

WITH many generous benefits readily handed out to all and sundry by our politically correct nanny state, there is, in my opinion, no excuse or reason whatsoever for homelessness other than by the choice of the individual.

I find it astonishing and infuriating that 'our' newly-elected West Midlands Mayor, Andy Street, should announce that one of his first priorities would be to set up a task-force to tackle the 'problem' of homelessness. Yet again PC and the minority rule while the silent majority continue to pay but have no say.

Given the appalling and dangerous state of many of the roads on Mr Street's patch, I think a few hundred thousand voters and council tax payers would agree with me that whilst these people should undoubtedly be removed from our streets, the Mayor's priorities should lie with rough roads rather than rough sleepers.

B WILLIAMS
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HE'S the Black Country evangelist who champions the way we spake and the bostin' people he meets.

And that's the word which perfectly sums up how Steve Edwards feels about the Black Country.

It's the fourth year of the Black Country Festival – an event which grew from a will to ensure there was an annual celebration to remember.

It brings the people of the Black Country together from across all four corners of the community to mark Black Country Day with a series of events during July .

"In the first year, July 14 fell midweek and there wasn't much stuff people could do to celebrate it," said Steve, as he sipped a pint and tucked into some fittle – pork scratchings of course – in the Bottle and Glass pub, at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

Community

"A few of us got together and said we should have a go ourselves. We planned on just having a weekend of events but so many people wanted to do something we said why don't we just take over the whole of July and put on as many community events and fill as many town centres as we can.

"Before the Black Country Festival community had kind of died. And it was just like 'how can we bring people back together and celebrate the story of the Black Country'. We have a lot to celebrate here."

From live comedy nights, fun runs and community carnivals – more events are being planned than ever before during the festival which kicks off on July 1. And the Black Country Flag, designed by schoolgirl Gracie Sheppard, has been proudly flown at hosts of events – from Glastonbury to community fairs in Brierley Hill.

Organiser Steve Edwards with the iconic Black Country flag

Steve laughs: "It's been amazing. That flag has been the second highest-selling in England, only outsold by the Union Flag.

"The Black Country struggled to have a brand to help push it forward and see all the number of events growing. We are covering the four boroughs now."

Steve, aged 33, from Pensnett, helped organise his own Black Country celebrations prior to the festival inspired by another landmark event in the calender. "It was brought about by seeing people celebrate St Patrick's Day and I thought you know what the Black Country is famous for, its beer. Why can't we use our own breweries to promote what we've got going on and bring in all the history of the Black Country," said the furniture factory worker.

"The Black Country Living Museum got involved and gave us some substance to the date and it became July 14, when the Industrial Revolution got started with the invention of the Newcomen Steam Engine.

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Expanding children's centre aims to help more families

A CHILDREN'S centre is to be expanded to help more vulnerable youngsters and their families, it has been revealed.

The existing Coseley Children's Centre, in Bayer Street, currently helps families with children up to the age of five. But Dudley Council has agreed a deal to buy the former Family Health Clinic next door, which is currently empty, from owners Action for Children Ltd to allow the centre to expand.

The two buildings, which are joined and already accessible to one another, will form the new North Dudley Family Centre.

It will now help and provide services for children up to the age of 18, or 25 for those with learning difficulties or disabilities.

There will also be space within the newly enlarged Family Health Clinic building for a council hub to be created, providing information on local authority services that are available for local people.

Positive

Tony Oakman, strategic director for people, said: "This is a very positive move, which will enable us to help more vulnerable children in a wider age range.

"Keeping children out of care and in a family environment, where it is safe and sustainable to do so, will always be one of our priorities."

Mr Oakham added: "This new centre will give families in Coseley somewhere they can go locally to hopefully get the help and support they need."

The existing children's centre, which is run by Sure Start, has been open since 2008.

Road closed by collision of two cars

A MAIN road in the Black County was closed following a crash involving two cars near Stourbridge.

Emergency services were called to the A458 Bridgnorth Road, in Wollaston, following the late morning smash which saw one of the cars come to rest on the pavement.

Both cars suffered damage but the three people involved were not thought to have been badly hurt.

The crash happened near the Foresters Arms pub at around 11.45pm on Friday, May 26.

The people travelling in the cars were checked over by ambulance crews.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman said: "Nobody was trapped and the casualties received precautionary checks from paramedics.

"Crews made the vehicles safe and Bridgnorth Road was closed in both directions."

First black lemur born at zoo in ten years

The baby Lemur is still clinging on to its mom, six-year-old Barbara

A RARE black lemur has been born at a zoo for the first time in over a decade.

Dudley Zoo, which is part of the European Endangered Species Programme, welcomed its new furry friend on May 15.

The newborn was born to first-time mother, Barbara, and father, Bryan.

Curator Richard Brown said: "This is fantastic news not only for DZG (Dudley Zoological Gardens) but for the captive population as a whole.

"Six-year-old Barbara arrived from Bioparc Fuengirola in Spain in November to join our 11-year-old resident male, Bryan, as together they make a very important genetic pair.

"She's only been here just over six months, but must have made an impression on Bryan almost immediately.

"Mum and baby are both doing really well, so we're thrilled, especially as this is the first black lemur baby we've had at Dudley Zoo since 2006."

Keepers are yet to confirm the baby's sex as the grey-coloured youngster will cling to mum for the next few weeks, but will reveal its own gender in time, as only males have black fur and females develop their characteristic brown colour after a few weeks.

A threatened species, they are only found in the wild on the north western tip of Madagascar and a few outlying islands but have been hunted for food and the pet trade.

The newborn can be found in the zoo's one-acre Lemur Wood walk-through exhibit.

Family calls for safer road after crash

A FAMILY which had a lucky escape after a car ploughed into their kitchen has called on Dudley Council to improve road safety, revealing it is the second time a car has crashed into their home.

The vehicle struck the side of the house in Pensnett, leaving a gaping hole in the brickwork. Luckily family members were in other parts of the house at the time.

Simon Husselbee, aged 44, was inside the property alongside his two children, while his wife was on the way back to home from her job as an ambulance driver.

Mr Husselbee, also an ambulance driver, has called on the authority to implement road safety measures.

The ambulance driver explained that it was the second time a car had crashed into their property.

Alun Lunt, a strategic director for place at the authority, said the safety of motorists and pedestrians was of the utmost importance.

He added: "We implement a number of road safety schemes across the borough each year to improve the safety of our roads, which due to financial pressures are prioritised. We are aware of an inciden, which will be investigated with police."

The driver, a 30-year-old man from Pensnett, was arrested before being released while inquiries continue.

Songs around camp fire to help hospice

THE third annual Compton Hospice family camp out and activity weekend takes place in August. It will be at Kinver Scout Camp from August 11 to 13 and will offer the opportunity to take part in archery, craft activities and more.

Full weekend and single day tickets can be booked through the fundraising department on 0845 2245 497 or by emailing fundraising@compton-hospice.org.uk

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College helped to forge my Hollywood career

'WITHOUT Dudley College, I don't know where I would be.'

Those are the words of Hollywood actor Duane Henry, who has paid tribute to his college tutors.

During a visit home to the West Midlands, Duane – who stars in US TV crime drama NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigative Service) – has praised tutors who helped change his life.

He said they helped him channel his energy after his first year at the college, where he studied performing arts.

"I liked the course they offered in terms of performing arts," said the 32-year-old, originally from Handsworth. "I admit the first year I went there I didn't take it that serious.

"I was just happy to be out of school and be around new faces in the canteen and the girls doing hairdressing upstairs – it was all crazy to me.

"After my first year, a couple of my teachers sat me down and said 'look, buck your ideas up and you could probably do something with your life'. And I was like 'really, really?' And they were like 'yeah you can'. So I started to focus my energy on the performance side of things."

Duane left for London, aged 17, to pursue his dreams of becoming an actor on November 27, 2003, and exactly 10 years later booked a flight to Los Angeles.

Duane plays British intelligence officer Clayton Reeves in the hit TV series. He has also starred in UK TV shows including Doctor Who and Midlands-set drama Doctors.

Hollywood actor Duane Henry has been back to visit Dudley, where he went to college, and praised the tutors who helped him concentrate on acting

Birmingham-born Duane Henry with Mark Harmon in a scene from top US TV drama NCIS, in which he plays British intelligence officer Clayton Reeves

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Aled joining Gentleman Songsters for charity night

TV and radio presenter Aled Jones is to sing alongside the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir in Dudley later this year.

The popular Welshman shot to fame when his cover version of Walking In The Air was used in 1980s cult Christmas classic The Snowman.

Aled will be at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday, September 23. The concert has been organised by the Gentlemen Songsters, and all proceeds on the night will go to the mayor's charities.

Councillor Dave Tyler assumed the chains of office last week, and will be raising cash for three charities – Dudley Mind, the YMCA and Dudley Alzheimer's Society – during the course of his mayoral year.

Compere for the evening will be Good Morning Britain's Phillipa Tomson, a former Dudley Chronicle and Express & Star journalist.

Councillor Dave Tyler, Mayor of Dudley, said: "Getting Aled Jones to perform in Dudley is a real coup, and this event is sure to be a sell-out."

Since his early singing days, Aled has gone on to enjoy a distinguished career on the small screen, presenting shows such as Songs of Praise, Daybreak, Cash In The Attic and Escape To The Country.

The 70-strong Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir, based in Dudley, perform in nearly 20 concerts every year including four at the town hall. It was formed in 1957 and this year is celebrating the group's 60th anniversary.

Tickets are on sale now from £18 to £25. See www.gsmvc.org.uk or call the ticket hotline on 01746 763850.

TV and radio presenter Aled Jones will be singing with the Gentlemen Songsters at Dudley Town Hall

Comments sought on transport plans

RAILWAY stations for Willenhall and Darlaston, plus a Metro connection to Stourbridge, are among proposals being commented on in a public consultation ending next week.

The six-week public consultation on the Draft 2026 Delivery Plan for Transport ends on June 6. It is part of a plan for growth by the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The authority predicts there will be 1.2 million extra journeys every day by 2035. Bosses want to ease congestion and also ensure air quality.

Rail travel across the region continues to increase, going up 70 per cent over the past 10 years. As part of the delivery plan, new stations are being proposed, including Willenhall and Darlaston, where stations were closed during the 1960s.

The consultation also features Metro routes and states the extension from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill is already 'committed' with work expected to start next year. It is also considering a line from Brierley Hill to Stourbridge.

Perverts, drugs and dogs close woodland

DOG attacks, drug dealing and outdoor sexual activity has forced the closure of a woodland beauty spot near Halesowen after officials deemed it unsafe for the public.

The Woodland Trust says it is the first time it has closed a woodland in the UK but the action is a 'last resort'.

By Lucy Thompson

The move follows a spate of problems that has also included off-road bikes ripping through Uffmoor Wood and irresponsible dog owners allowing their pets to foul the bluebell wood. Complaints have been coming in weekly.

The trust says that some of the worst offences at the woods include dogs being attacked by other dogs that were not under control and a farmer's sheep being killed on neighbouring land.

Trust staff say they have been threatened, verbally abused and knocked over by dogs and they have also received complaints about groups of people meeting for sex in the woods.

Sad

Gareth Hopkins, regional operations manager for the Woodland Trust, said he was sorry that the woods were being put off-limits.

He added: "This is an absolute last resort, and we're very sad to take such severe measures.

"Drug dealing, out of control dogs and dog fouling have made this wood unsafe, despite our best efforts to work with – and educate – the irresponsible dog owners.

"We desperately wanted to keep Uffmoor open for all to enjoy. We hope this is not a permanent measure, and we extend our thanks to the responsible dog walkers and local people who love and care about the wood."

Previous efforts to tackle the concerns about bad behaviour in the woods have included posters and staff have also been speaking face to face with visitors.

Despite these attempts to solve the problem, they had seen no positive change.

The police have been involved on several occasions but the situation has continued to get steadily worse, said the trust's bosses.

The wood has been closed as of this week and gates have been padlocked at every entrance. Maintenance works will be carried out whilst the woodland is shut.

Councillor Margaret Sherrey said: "It's a problem that's been going on for some years. I can understand the reason they're closing it .

"It's just very sad because it's down to the misbehaviour of other people."

Man in court over motorbiker's death

A MAN from Brierley Hill has appeared in court charged with causing the death of a motorcyclist.

Dylan Dudgon, aged 41, appeared at a brief hearing at Walsall Magistrates Court last week charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Elliott Beddow, aged 20, died when he came off his Harley Davidson on Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, in September.

Dudgon, of Victoria Road, Brierley Hill, has not entered a plea and is due to appear next at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 21.

He was released on unconditional bail until that date.

More than 100 motorcyclists held a procession during the funeral of Mr Beddow, who was from Stourton, near Stourbridge.

Mr Beddow was described by his mother Katie as a 'ray of sunshine' and the 'family joker'.

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Most dangerous jobs are revealed

Figures have revealed there were 67 workplace deaths in the West Midlands over five years. TOM OAKLEY looks at some of the most risky occupations

When the majority of us go to work, the most we have to worry about is getting there on time and meeting targets.

But for others, it's not just a case of heading to the office and sitting behind a desk.

In the West Midlands, figures show that the most injuries take place in agriculture, construction and manufacturing. But workers can face danger in all manner of tasks, such as taking to the road in an HGV, climbing up the side of high-rise sky-scraper to clean the windows, or courageously battling fires to save lives.

There were 621,000 workplace injuries in Britain in 2015/16 – including 144 deaths.

Across the West Midlands, figures collated by the Health and Safety Executive show that between 2011 and 2016, there were 67 fatal injuries in the workplace.

Heartbreak

Meanwhile, in 2015/16, a total of 7,019 people reported non-fatal injuries in the workplace in the region.

This included 2,585 across the Black Country and Birmingham, 1,420 in Staffordshire and 652 in Shropshire.

The HSE reported 559 non-fatal injuries in the manufacturing industry in 2015/16 across Staffordshire and the Black Country, as well as 98 in construction.

Following the release of the statistics Martin Temple, chair of the HSE said: "One death at work, or a life needlessly shortened, is one too many, and behind every statistic lies a real story of loss and heartbreak and families left to grieve. Britain has one of the best health and safety systems in the world but we should always be looking to improve and to prevent incidents that cost lives.

"This year HSE travelled the country asking industry representatives, employers, unions, workers and others what they could do to help GB work well.

"The response was hugely encouraging and I would like to ask people to deliver on the commitments made, which will help keep Britain's workers alive."

In the UK, the long-term trend has seen fatalities more than halve over the last 20 years but the most recent figures (144) have increased from 142 in 2014/5. The biggest killer nationally last year was the construction industry, with 43 workers dying.

Farmer

Rod MacBean big animals are a risk

ROD MacBean, who keeps Brockhurst Farm in Aston near Wem, Shropshire, says he is not surprised farming is rated as one of the most dangerous jobs in Britain. "You are working with big machinery and big animals," he says. "Several people have been attacked by bulls. You are also using big pieces of equipment which are very heavy and very powerful."

Mr McBean, who has been a full-time farmer for more than 20 years, says the pressures farmers have been under in recent years has also taken its toll, forcing them to work extremely long hours. "Due to the lack of money in the industry, a lot of machines are very poorly maintained, or should have been replaced several years ago," he says.

Firefighters

'Operations are often dangerous'

TIM Hyde, firefighter and director of response at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue says years ago being a firefighter would have been one of the most dangerous jobs in the country. But thanks to huge improvements to equipment, protective clothing and breathing apparatus – along with learning from past operations – techniques have been shaped, which means it's much safer.

He said:"Fire and Rescue operations are often in dangerous environments which health and safety guidance would in normal circumstances require workers to avoid. For obvious reasons, firefighters have to enter such environments so We adopt the 'safe person concept' whereby firefighters are given the training."

Road worker

LES Bramwell works on the roads in Staffordshire. He was assessing the roads as part of his day-to-day duties when he was struck by a car.

The 65 year old, from Penkridge, was walking along the pavement after routinely assessing repairs to a pothole on the A50 near Stoke-on-Trent when he was struck by a car last April. He broke his neck and leg in three different places. It was a miracle he wasn't killed.

Since then, he has highlighted the dangers of working on the region's roads. "I want to highlight to people the dangers of our job," he said.

"Something that should have been a routine task has had a serious impact on my life. That's why it's so important we educate motorists about the dangers of the work we do day in, day out."

Over the past 10 years, Highways England have reported that workers have been injured by motorists on more than 50 occasions. Seventeen of those incidents involved workers on foot.

Les suffered serious injuries after being hit by a car

High-rise window cleaners

MANY of us suffer from acrophobia – more commonly known as being terrified of heights.

If climbing up the loft ladder is a step too far, imagine what its like abseiling hundreds of feet up the side of a building on a daily basis. High-rise window cleaners take to the skies to get to those windows that cannot be reached with a step ladder and bucket.

From cleaning the metal dishes on the Bullring in Birmingham to scaling the heights of Wolverhampton University – it is certainly appears to be one of the most terrifying.

The skilled workers take precautionary tests to ensure their work is safe and secure at all times.

Abseiling down Selfridges at the Bull Ring in Brum

Meanwhile, Statistics show that the motor industry is one of the most dangerous occupations in Britain. Figures from the Health and Safety Executive reveal a total of 67 people suffered fatal injuries at work over a 10-year period up until 2012.

In 2012/13, eight people in the vehicle repair industry were killed, and 300 more suffered serious injuries.

Truck driver

JIM Rushton says too many vehicles on the roads, an increase in the number of drivers from less-developed countries and the fear of stowaways while waiting for ferries makes being a lorry driver one of the most difficult jobs around.

"It's very dangerous," says the 62-year-old from Tweedale, Telford, who first became a lorry driver in 1974. "It's getting worse and worse every day. It's quite difficult on the roads." He says overseas drivers operating in UK roads in recent years has increased sharply, and the standard of driving varies greatly.

"There are too many vehicles on the roads, that is the biggest danger," he says. "We also work long hours."

Mr Rushton discovered another dangerous side to the job when he tried to board a ferry in Calais last year – five illegal immigrants who tried to stowaway in his truck. "When you park up overnight over there, you wonder whether somebody will get in," he says.

Too many vehicles on the road, and long hours

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Specialist triage team cuts down police costs

A SPECIALIST squad has saved West Midlands Police an estimated £1.8m in wasted time since its launch around two and half years ago.

Mental health issues account for around 20 per cent of the daily demand on police officers but are now handled in the Black Country by the Triage team.

The service is headed by a police sergeant and has six constables, three paramedics and four community psychiatric nurses. They are able to deal with matters at the scene rather than leaving emergencycrews to cope alone as the first point of call.

Hundreds of people have been spared unnecessary spells in cells while expert mental health advice is sought and many more have avoided being needlessly taken to accident and emergency departments.

Since its launch in November 2014 the team has had more than 7,500 cases passed to them by either the police or ambulance service.

They were able to give expert on-the-spot assessments of 3,000 people suffering from mental health issues, ensuring that three quarters of these could be properly treated while remaining at home. As a result 689 people avoided being unnecessarily detained under the Mental Health Act, saving the West Midlands force approximately £1,825,000.

Clinical Commissioning Groups from Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell have just agreed to fund the team for another 12 months.

It operates in a marked West Midlands Ambulance Service responder vehicle, which is also equipped for emergencies and operate seven days a week from 10am to 2am, Sunday to Thursday and 10am to 3am, Friday and Saturdays.

Front, Sgt Lloyd Fox and Harriet Lawrence. Back, from left, Bernice Hancox, Cathy Mander and Julia Lees. Kneeling, Richard Bloore and Pc James Morden. In car, Pc Glenn Flavell

Record deal for R&B singer

WOLVERHAMPTON based independent record label Strawberry Moon Records has struck a three-year release and management deal with up and coming R&B act Keoni.

The ambitious label internationally distributes music for acts such as Hurricane #1, The Fireflys, former Factory Too Records artist Khaliq and conquerors of the north-east music scene The Voluntears.

Keoni, an accomplished singer-songwriter, has worked with some big names in creating his sensual pop/R&B sounds.

The label said in a statement: "With hit-makers Soulshaker working closely to remix his songs and being picked-up by internationally renowned vocal coaches David and Carrie Grant, we can expect things to move quickly for the Birmingham artist. 2016 saw the release of House track 'Make You Feel Alright' which topped the international net radio charts and Top 10 UK Music Week Chart."

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150th anniversary fund is launched at St Paul's

IT has stood as a symbol of religion in a Black Country town for almost 150 years but the time has come for major repairs.

Leaders at St Paul's Church in Blackheath say an inspection report on the building has revealed serious problems with the roof and guttering. Signs of the damage were clear before the inspection with water leaks in the ceiling. Now scaffolding has gone up around the building with workers checking the condition of the roof.

In preparation, the church has launched a fundraising campaign, named the 150th Anniversary Appeal Fund.

By Alex Ross

Church leaders want to organise events to raise money, but they are also appealing for donations from the congregation and from the wider public in Blackheath and the Black Country as a whole.

Reverend Mike Sermon said: "The church is really now showing clear signs of age and we need to raise money to carry out necessary repairs."

Celebration

Administrator Mary Evans said the planned work was the first for many years at the church in Long Lane.

She said: "We have had a lot of problems with the roof.

"A report was carried out on the church's condition and the roof came up as a problem.

"So we have paid to get scaffolding up around the building, and then we wait to hear the extent of the damage and what needs to be done.

"We fear the whole work will cost a lot of money."

The fund is aimed at raising around £40,000. And it is hoped the work will be done in time for 2019 – the 150th anniversary of the church.

Ms Evans said: "We're hoping to get the work done for the anniversary.

"It woul make a special celebration."

The church regularly attracts congregations of around 50 people on a Sunday morning for the service.

The foundation stone to the church was laid in 1868 and the church consecrated in 1869.

Ten years ago the premises was hit by a fire after vandals broke in the church hall.

Vicar of St Paul's, Rev Mike Sermon, outside the church in Blackheath where scaffolding has gone up

Cheers as brewery is expanding

A MICROBREWERY that opened in Blackheath in the autumn of 2014 is expanding into a second unit.

Fixed Wheel was started by Scott Povey and is based on the Long Lane Trading Estate. He said the addition of a second unit on the estate would enable Fixed Wheel to increase out put and give it more room for cold storage and its on-site bar.

Fixed Wheel is taking on a third member of staff with the expansion to 2,000 sq ft. The addition of a fifth fermenting vessel means production can be stepped up to 40 barrels a week.

Fixed Wheel, which has won a number of awards at beer festivals in the Midlands since its launch, produces six main ales.

Scott was a home brewer for 10 years before leaving his job as an engineer to start Fixed Wheel.

Bank's £4m for housing

A HOUSING development can be completed after a banking giant offered to support the scheme.

A total of 14 four-bedroom homes are being built on Sedgley Road, Tipton.

Work began earlier this year and now IP Developments has secured £4.6 million funding from NatWest to finish the project.

The firm has also overseen the creation of 36 two and three-bedroom properties on York Road, Rowley Regis.

Dentist's surgery is to expand

A DENTAL surgery in Blackheath is set to expand.

The Bhandal Dental group, which has surgeries across the West Midlands and three in Rowley Regis, has applied for planning permission for a further premises on Blackheath High Street in a former card shop.

Documents state: "The proposed new dental surgery will be annexed to the dental surgery on 74 Birmingham Road and will enable Dr Bhandal to continue accepting NHS patients."

The planning application is to change the use of the premises and to allow the construction of a two storey extension at the rear.

The public car park at the rear will cater for staff and patients, however, there will be five private parking spaces created behind the surgery.

School looks at memorial

A SCHOOL wants to contact relatives of war heroes listed on a local memorial as part of a project.

Pupils at St Michael's High School in Rowley Regis, who will be making clay poppies, has invited relatives of the fallen still living in the area to take part.

The school will visit the Imperial War Museum and is planning an exhibition at St Giles Church in July. Contact caroleannetts39@outlook.com via email.

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The art of bonsai is talk topic

Clent Gardening Club

THE April meeting welcomed Rob Thomas from Kidderminster to give a talk on the art of Bonsai with demonstration.

Rob, from Kidderminster, has been interested in the art of Bonsai for many years and has an extensive collection. He brought a small selection of his magnificent specimens to display to club members.

He began his talk with a brief potted history of Bonsai and surprised many members with the information that Bonsai was not invented by the Japanese, but in fact was taken over and embellished by the Japanese from the Chinese who had originated the art.

He then produced a somewhat straggly box plant and proceeded to demonstrate how to convert this into a potential Bonsai tree. He explained that virtually any tree or woody plant could be converted.

He said that an experienced eye was necessary to get the best results and it could take many years to develop this skill.

Members were fascinated by his talk and demonstration and the chairman gave thanks for a thoroughly interesting evening.

After the usual break for tea, coffee and biscuits the chairman drew the raffle and announced the results of the various monthly competitions.

Belbroughton Horticultural Society will host the joint meeting next, with Duncan Coombes from Pershore College giving a talk on 'Shaded Garden'.

A fair assessment of showman's life

Haring off for lunch and shopping trip

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

CHAIRMAN Shelia Evans welcomed all present to the May 4 meeting at the Royal British Legion, Kingswinford, including a new member and a visitor.

Business matters were dealt with. Details regarding the trip on September 28 to the March Hare for lunch and afterwards for retail therapy in Worcester, were announced.

A letter from the Beacon Blind Centre for the Blind was read out thanking the Ladies for their donation.

The speaker was Rose Steadman, a local girl who joined the police force and became involved with the Criminal Investigation Department. After the birth of her daughter, she rejoined the force and began working with the probation service, trying to discover why young offenders keep offending, aiming to educate them to adjust to living in a law abiding society. There were seven main categories why youngsters offend, the two main ones being burglary to fund drug and alcohol addiction, the second one a lack of educational skills to make them employable.

Sometimes, there were also hidden agendas, and she quoted one teenage girl who constantly offended and when asked why was relieved to tell someone she was being sexually abused.

Many strategies are put into place with quite a degree of success but sadly today gambling is becoming a problem. A most interesting and enlightening talk.

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

CO-CHAIRMAN Pauline Handley welcomed 31 members and visitors to a delightful lunch provided by The Lodge, Wellington Road, in May.

This is proving a popular monthly event and Pauline was pleased to introduce the speaker Ned Williams to talk about the life of renowned

Black Country entrepreneur Pat Collins. Well-known as a funfair operator, he was for 20 years the national president of the Showman's Guild. From 1922-25 he served as a Liberal MP for Walsall.

After the death of his first wife Flora he married Clara and they became Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall in 1938. He was offered a knighthood at the age of 80 but turned this down and was given the Freedom of the Borough of Walsall.

Pat died in 1943 but the Pat Collins Fairs were still carried on by his daughter who married into the Harris family.

The speaker on June 9 will be Patricia Boyd from Bantock House Museum and on July 14, Michael Taylor on 'The

A club win to shout about

Stourbridge Speakers Club

STOURBRIDGE Speakers Club are the talk of the town after collecting the Blarney Stone for the sixth time in succession and the 12th in all.

Four team members compete against the opposing club, Bromsgrove, to deliver prepared speeches using identical pre-determined agreed topics.

These were seaside, country and town and each club had to deliver one speech in each category. The three external judges gave Stourbridge took a 2-1 verdict.

The Stourbridge club is always open to new potential members. Meetings are held on alternative Mondays from 8-10pm at the Stourbridge Institute.

Call 07544 198309 or visit www.stourbridgespeakers.org.uk

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Mr Challenor, Swan Bank, Penn

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The Cold War comes to Tettenhall

John Richards scores the winner

Wolves supporters enjoying the game despite the weather

A grim Erfurt street from the hotel window

How we braved Cold to support our team

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

IN November 1971 a small band of Wolves supporters braved the weather and the East German border guards to venture behind the Iron Curtain.

We were there to support our team against F C Carl Zeiss Jena in the third round of the UEFA Cup, first leg. We flew from Birmingham to Nuremburg Airport in West Germany, and were then taken by coach into the East.

In took only 10 minutes to pass through the heavily-armed border on the way in, but was to take more than two hours to get out, as every nook and cranny on the coaches were searched, and everyone on board checked carefully.

We stayed the night in the town of Erfurt, and found some solace in a grim bar, the experience made worse by the icy weather. When we arrived in Jena for the match, we found a small, largely open stadium, and had to brush 4in of snow off the plain benches to sit down. At least the result was enjoyable as John Richards slotted the only goal.

It had been an afternoon match as the stadium had no floodlights, and we returned to West Germany after the game for the flight home.

A taste of the old Cold War Iron Curtain was brought to Tettenhall Station last month when East German and Russian Cold War re-enactors set up a 'border post' and were faced by American and British Army of the Rhine re-enactors.

Try as they might to be grim and forbidding, a pleasant spring day in the Smestow Valley, could hardly compare to a bleak, snowy, border post, in the centre of Europe, where NATO and the Warsaw Pact were eyeball-to-eyeball, and the Cold War might have become Hot, at any moment.

The snowy view from the benches

East German re-enactors try to look grim in Tettenhall

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Claverley hosts classic car rally

MORE than 40 classic cars will be on display at an upcoming car rally.

The event is being held as part of the annual open day at Ludstone Hall, Claverley, to raise money for the parish church.

Two special guests will be on hand to officially open the event on June 4, starting at 11am.

There are already 40 classic cars confirmed to attend the event, from a more than 100-year-old Cadillac to a 1950s F1 Cooper.

Anthony Fenwick-Wilson, who is organising the car rally, said he was delighted to have secured the special guests, whose names are being kept under-wraps.

He said: "We have a variety of different motor cars, I will be bringing my racing cars and an old Bentley. It is all part and parcel of the annual open day at Ludstone Hall."

Entry costs £4 and is free for children with all proceeds going to All Saints Church in Claverley.

Very Moore-ish – brewery's bosses pay tribute to Sir Roger

"VERY smooth, very Moore-ish, very Banks's bitter."

Sir Roger Moore's death last week sparked a Twitter tribute from Banks's bosses.

The Black Country brewery posted a clip of the advert from 2000 adverts starring Sir Roger and wrote: "R.I.P Roger Moore, one of the greats and of course who could forget this?"

The former James Bond star was flown over from his home in Switzerland to film the two ads – which were his British TV commercial debut.

He saunters into a bar wearing a white tuxedo and says: "You know, the worst thing about being a world-famous megastar is you simply can't pop into your local for a quiet pint of Banks's bitter."

As the legendary actor approaches the bar a pint of Banks's is handed over to him before he takes a swig. Then a member of the public who is propping up the bars asks: "You're him, aren't you?" to which Sir Roger simply replies "yes". The drinker offers to buy Sir Roger his pint. The star then casually looks straight down the camera, adding: "See what I mean? Not a moment's peace?"

The advert ends with the iconic slogan – 'Very Smooth, Very Mooreish'.

Birmingham agency Wallis Tomlinson created the 30-second ads but were originally told by watchdogs they could not use the phrase 'moreish' because it might encourage over-indulgence. So they played on Sir Roger's surname to retain the slogan 'very smooth, very Mooreish, very Bank's bitter.' In a second add the star is seen walking through a country house and being offered a pint of the Black Country beer from a stand.

As well as his iconic movie role as 007, Sir Roger will also be remembered for the 1960s TV series The Saint and early 1970s show The Persuaders! in which he starred with Tony Curtis

Sir Roger enjoys a pint

Best for first time buyers

SANDWELL and Dudley are the most affordable parts of the West Midlands for first-time buyers, according to new research.

Sandwell was found the be the cheapest area, when average property prices and salaries in the borough were compared, followed closely by Dudley.

David Sharples, mortgage broker at Search Mortgage Solutions, which conducted the study, said: "Many first-time buyers are struggling to save up for the required deposit to buy their own home.

"Research recently undertaken by ourselves in several regions across the UK has proven that affordability can differ considerably when looking just a short distance apart."

For further information go to www.searchmortgagesolutions.co.uk

I'd be dead if not for my daughter

Mum Deana Wilkes from Tipton with daughter Sheridan

"SHE is my hero, I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for her." Those are the words of Deana Wilkes, whose 15-year-old daughter, Sheridan, called emergency services after she found her mother unconscious at their home.

On March 3, Sheridan woke to find her mother not up and about as usual. Upon entering her bedroom she found 41-year-old Deana, from Tipton, lying on the floor.

Sheridan, who is in Year 10 at RSA Academy, alerted her 10-year-old sister Madison and neighbour – nurse Tracy Mansell – and Deana was rushed to Russells Hall Hospital were she was put in intensive care.

Deana had blacked out and, despite medics trying their best, her leg had to be amputated due to lack of blood supply. The mother-of-three said: "The last thing I remember was looking through my bedroom window before going to bed. Then I woke up in hospital with my leg amputated."

Deana was in intensive care for five days, didn't wake up for nearly two weeks and was finally allowed home after 20 days. She praised her daughters for being 'incredibly brave' despite the scary situation.

Businesses invited to apprenticeship event

EMPLOYERS in the West Midlands are invited to attend a free business event where they can learn more about recent changes to apprenticeships.

Skills Training UK is hosting the information morning at its Academy for Business, Industry and Skills at Wolverhampton Science Park between 10am – 1pm on Wednesday, June 7.

Experts will be on hand to explain more about the reforms and how they will affect businesses – including the incentives available to help pay for apprenticeships and the introduction of a new apprenticeship levy.

The new apprenticeship levy means that all employers in England with an annual wage bill greater than £3million will be expected to pay a 0.5% tax on payroll that they can invest on apprenticeship training within their workforce.

To book a place at the Wolverhampton event please visit www.eventbrite.com

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, June 1, 2017

Grow your crops in pots if space is a problem

PLANTING vegetables in containers is a great way of growing your own food, especially if space is limited.

It means you can have your own supply of edible crops not only in the garden but on your balcony or patio and pretty much all year round.

Apart from the colour and contrast they bring to your outside living space, there are plenty of excellent reasons for growing vegetables and herbs in pots.

CONVENIENCE

Everything is easy to get to when you need to pick some spinach or grab some tomatoes, you just step outside to your container garden.

LIGHT:

Sometimes the only sun you get in a garden is on the patio or balcony so for plants that thrive in sunny positions it makes sense to place them where they will grow the best. It also means that if there is a heat wave you can move them into partial shade for a while.

SOIL

You are the master of their soil, which means you can create the best growing environment by using the right compost. A soil based compost such as John Innes No 3 is easy to grow in or compost from grow bags is also a good option. Growing vegetables in good potting mix makes plants grow faster and remain healthier.

WATER:

It takes less water to keep a few pots watered than to water an allotment or vegetable garden. However, it's really important to make sure your containers don't dry out so you do need to water on a regular basis especially if growing in porous pots such as terracotta. If water restrictions are in place then you can always use grey water – from baths or washing up.

SHARING

Container gardening can include all the family. Children love growing plants in pots because the soil is good and success is more than likely. Pots are easy for them to reach, they can have a pot of their own and although they will need help in the initial planting they can be responsible for the care ... and harvesting!

The key to successful container growing is picking the right varieties and the right pots. Many vegetables are happy growing in containers – just make sure they are deep enough for the plants to grow in. Vegetables that grow particularly well in containers include beetroot, broad beans, carrots, herbs, lettuce, peas, potatoes, salad leaves, salad onions, spinach and tomatoes.

Sara Milne – The Potted Garden

Plea made to help protect stag beetles

A PLEA has been made urging people to make their gardens sanctuaries for under-threat stag beetles.

Tips are being offered to gardeners to help protect the beetles, which are more likely to be seen at this time of year as warmer evenings draw them above ground to find a mate and reproduce.

But the despite being Britain's largest land beetle, they are also one of Britain's rarer beetles. Now, People's Trust for Endangered Species has offered advice for gardeners can help make their green spaces a haven for stag beetles and help reverse their decline:

CREATE A LOG PILE

One of the major problems facing stag beetles is a lack of rotting wood to lay eggs in or near, and for larvae to feed on. By creating a log pile (or a log pyramid, if you fancy a challenge!), you can provide stag beetles with habitat for the future. Log piles are also great habitat for other invertebrates and they in turn provide food for hedgehogs and birds.

LEAVE DEAD WOOD IN YOUR GARDEN

Leave old stumps and dead wood alone, as these provide the perfect habitat and also a food supply. If you want to make the stumps more attractive – try growing a climbing plant such as clematis up it.

REDUCE DANGERS

Be vigilant when mowing your lawn and be alert for predators; try and scare away magpies and keep your own pets indoors during warm evenings when stag beetles are flying. Also, make sure any open water has an exit point, and if you see a dead-looking beetle in water, please take it out – they often revive!

RECORD YOUR SIGHTINGS

Let PTES know where you've spotted a stag beetle via the Great Stag Hunt! Sightings are key to finding out where populations are thriving, in need of help, or non-existent.

Visit www.ptes.org/stagbeetles to find out more, including how to build a log pile or pyramid, ID guides so you know a stag when you see one, and to record your sightings.

Lavender is in bloom for a long time during the summer months

We can all find a place at home for lovely lavender

BEST OF THE BUNCH – Lavender

THERE'S a place in almost any garden for this fragrant stalwart, which can be used as a low hedge, to frame a border or give you containers full of fragrance – as long as you're careful with watering, as if they dry out very badly, they're virtually impossible to bring back.

They flower for a long time in summer and their flowers are great for cutting or drying. French lavender, whose flowers are topped with coloured "wings" can be used as culinary herbs, while more fragrant Lavandula angustifolia "Hidcote" make brilliant edging paths for borders and fill the garden with scent.

Once flowering is over, give them a good trim with shears to tidy them up, but don't cut back into old wood or they won't recover.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – Tomatoes

Vigorous vine tomatoes, those grown as single stemmed cordons, need to be trained now to stop side shoots developing and creating a more messy, less productive plant. You should get up to six trusses of fruit per plant, depending on how high you can grow it.

When it's reached the height you want, stop it by cutting off the top and then its energy will flow back into the developing fruits. When the fruits are ripening, cut away the lower leaves of the first trusses to allow the sun to get to the tomatoes and promote more growth. Water and feed regularly while the plants are growing vigorously, but reduce watering later on for a sweeter flavour.

Don't water irregularly or this can lead to blossom end rot. A dose of liquid fertiliser added to the water once a week should keep the plants in good condition.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

:: Cover gooseberries, currants, strawberries and soft fruits with netting to keep the birds away.

:: Thin out plums to leave them spaced around 5-7.5cm (2-3in) apart.

:: Prune late spring and early summering flowering shrubs like philadelphus, weigela, ceanothus and escallonia, immediately after flowering.

:: Sprinkle general fertiliser granules around flowering plants and shrubs and hoe them into the soil surface, watering in if the weather is dry.

Gardens under attack from pests and diseases

Report by Hannah Stephenson

WHILE the mild weather and heavy rainfall of late may be good for the garden, it also provides an ideal breeding ground for pests and diseases.

Rot and grey mould may attack strawberry beds, codling moths could invade apple and plum trees, while aphids, carrot fly and slugs and snails will undoubtedly be doing their utmost to munch through our precious crops.

So, who are the main culprits and what can we do about them?

SLUGS AND SNAILS

These are the most persistent and troublesome pests in wet weather, as they have a taste for tender edible crops, including lettuces and beans, while below ground they can burrow through potato tubers.

Pick them off veg as you see them and be vigilant, particularly after rainfall.

Alternatively, spread really sharp grit around vulnerable plants or at the edge of vegetable beds.

If you have veg in pots, try wrapping copper tape around the top of the pot, which acts like a tiny electric fence.

GREY MOULD

This can be a real problem when strawberries are just starting to ripen.

You need to avoid watering strawberry beds as the fruit develops grey mould if it's in contact with wet ground.

Try to stop the rot by sliding a strawberry mat around the collar of each plant, or tuck handfuls of straw around the plants to keep the fruit off the ground.

CODLING MOTHS

The caterpillars of these small moths bore into apples and pears in summer, causing the fruits to ripen and drop early.

Often you can see the small, brown, white-headed caterpillar at the core.

To protect trees, set codling moth traps, which look like bright yellow or green tents, to which the insects are attracted, and then glued to the spot.

Place a small amount of pheromone in the trap (this comes in the kit) to lure males in, and once they are out of the picture, females will remain infertile.

VINE WEEVIL

These beetles can prove devastating to plants, particularly those in pots, but also among strawberry plants.

The beetles eat the leaves between spring and summer while their white maggot-looking larvae eat the roots of the plant.

Often the discovery of the larvae is made too late, when the grubs have literally chomped their way through the roots of the plant, effectively killing it.

On mild spring or summer evenings, inspect plants and walls by torchlight and pick off the adult weevils, which are black with dull yellow markings.

To deter them, you can use biological nematodes Nemasys vine weevil killer in early spring or autumn, mixing with water and soaking the plant. Or use a special compost with an anti-vine-weevil ingredient when planting containers.

Vine weevils can have a devastating impact – particularly on strawberry plants. The bugs eat the leaves while their larvae target the root.

Woolly aphids hide under white fluff mistaken for mould

Slugs are persistent – and love lettuce leaves

WOOLLY APHID

These insects, which often invade apple trees, hide under a white fluff which is often mistaken for mould.

The blackish brown aphids suck sap from the woody stems from spring and, if not tackled, are likely to spread to younger shoots by summer.

Their damage can lead to lumpy growths in the bark, which can split in the winter, and lead to apple canker.

Scrub colonies with a stiff bristled brush in spring or early summer.

CARROT FLY

If you haven't yet covered your carrots with fine insect-proof mesh, don't waste any time. It will also screen out greenfly and blackfly and won't trap heat underneath, so it can be used in summer. Grow tall-growing crops like Brussels sprouts away from the blanket covering, and make each plant an individual covering so they remain caterpillar-free.

Plants that need pollinating to produce a crop, such as beans and courgettes, will need to be uncovered when they start flowering, to allow access for pollinating insects.

Blazing a trail into the past

A TIME Trail has been created for residents and visitors to find out more about Dudley's history and its famous figures.

A special leaflet has been printed and put online to guide people around the trail, which takes around an hour-and-a-half to complete. It poses 30 questions to answer as people make their way around the town centre, with information found on the 30 bronze plaques that adorn landmark.

The Time Trail leaflets are free and can be collected from all borough libraries, archives and visitor attractions, including Dudley Council Plus in Castle Street.

Alan Lunt, strategic director for place, said: "Dudley is a market town with a very rich history. This new Time Trail will give both those who live in the borough, as well as those visiting us from outside, the chance to learn more about Dudley's famous figures, happenings and places from the past."

The trail guide is available to download at from www.discoverdudley.org.uk website.

Drug dealer is jailed after car rammed in high speed chase

A CONVICTED drug dealer drove at speeds of up to 100mph along major Black Country roads while being pursued by armed police.

Reuben Bell drove for more than seven miles colliding with other vehicles, ramming a police car, ignoring red lights and going the wrong way around a traffic island before he was stopped by officers who shot at his tyres.

Police found £5,200 in cash and a bullet inside his car and heroin at his home, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He was jailed for 16 months and will face a three-year driving ban on his release.

Father-of-two Bell, who worked as a supermarket delivery driver, was in his Ford Focus on the Black Country Route in Bilston when he was followed by armed police in three unmarked cars. One of the cars tried to get in front but Bell rammed it, damaging the vehicle so badly it was unable to continue, said Mr Matthew Brook, prosecuting.

Scraping

Bell, 36, then went the wrong way around a a traffic island and sped off chased by the other two police cars with their lights and sirens on. He continued on the Black Country Route, undertaking cars. He went through several red lights on the Birmingham New Road, pushing his way through queues of stationary cars, scraping their paintwork, in a bid to shake off the police. But at the junction of Trafalgar Road, Tividale, armed officers shot at the Ford's tyres.

Police searched Bell's home, then in East Park, and found wraps of heroin. He claimed not to have known he was being followed by police and sped off for fear of being shot. At the police station he attempted to escape but was caught.

Bell had nine previous convictions for 23 offences and had been jailed in 2004 and 2009 for offences related to supplying heroin.

Mr Lee Marklew, defending, said Bell had believed he was under attack.

Bell, of Cottesmore Close, West Bromwich, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, money laundering, possession of a Class A drug, ammunition and criminal property and attempting to escape from custody.

A celebration of classic cars

FAMOUS cars made in the Black Country will be on display when a special event returns later this month

Iconic names including Bean, Diamond, Guy and AJS will be among vehicles shown at the 15th Annual Festival of Black Country Vehicles at the Black Country Living Museum, on Sunday, June 18. The festival celebrates the Black Country's historical reputation as a major centre for vehicle manufacturing. Vehicles will have been built in the Black Country from 1913 up until the present day.

Other marques to be seen will include Austin, Bean, Clyno, Jensen, Lomax, Quantum, Rickman, Star, Swallow, Turner and Westfield.

Wolverhampton-based Clyno was once third largest car manufacturer in Britain.

Tickets are available from www.bclm.com or by calling 0121 5579643.

Armed police in shopping mall

Armed police officers chat with a shopper at Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Brierley Hill

FIREARMS officers were deployed to the Merry Hill shopping centre last week in unprecedented security brought in at busy public locations, following the Manchester Arena bomb attack.

The officers were seen regularly patrolling the sprawling site as police stepped up a highly visible presence to reassure the public.

Police were working 12-hour shifts in the wake of the pop concert suicide attack which claimed the lives of 22, including many parents and children, and injured many more after a pop concert by American singer Ariana Grande.

Chief Constable Dave Thompson said people needed to be 'alert' and act as the police's 'eyes and ears' following last week's atrocity.

He said: "We have deployed uniformed armed and unarmed officers. These duties are intended to reassure but principally to protect the public from a further attack that remains a realistic prospect.

"After such a big attack we need to ensure we are alert and prepared for one here. Extra work is under way to ensure we are even more prepared than normal.

"We know communities are our eyes and ears and are vital to ensure suspicious activity or concerns are raised. With emotions running high, many communities feel very vulnerable."

Officers with machine guns were also in place at the Mander Centre in Wolverhampton, bus and train stations, and in Birmingham at The Bullring, Grand Central and the cathedral. Following oncerns that the terrorist was not acting alone, the UK's terror threat level was raised to 'critical'.

Hospice to benefit from craft festival

A NEW food and craft festival will arrive at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club next weekend in aid of Compton Hospice.

Burgers, pies, ice creams and craft stalls are some of the delights that will be on offer at the outdoor event which will be held between 10am and 6pm on June 10. The festival, which has been organised by the hospice, aims to showcase local traders and craftsmen and there will also be crafting workshops for children as well as face-painting, a bouncy castle, live music and a bar.

Event organiser Vicki Wootton said: "This is the first food and craft festival the hospice has organised and we are looking forward to seeing a range of artisan stalls showcasing the best the Midlands has to offer.."

Tickets for the festival cost £2.50 for adults. Under 12s free. For more information contact Vicki Wootton on 0845 225 5497.

Cheers to iron man

A BEER has been produced to commemorate the father of the industrial revolution who was born in Woodsetton.

Abraham Darby, born in 1678, pioneered a more effective way of producing iron at Coalbrookdale in Shropshire.

His discovery helped spark the industrial revolutionand his grandson went on to build the Ironbridge.

Holden's Brewery, based in Woodsetton, has launched the 'Abraham Darby First Molton Glow Special'.

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7. Who's phone number ends in 5832?
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Rules: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is (9/06/17). The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

02.06.17

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DAY TRIPS & SHORT BREAKS SUMMER 2017

	ADULT	OAP	CHILD
Sat 1st July Wellsbourne Market & Stratford Grab a Bargain!	£12 or 2 £20		
Sun 16th July RAF FAIRFORD Royal International Air Tattoo, A Great Day Out!!	£55	£55	£18
Sat 22nd July Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Sand Piers Depart 6.00pm *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Sun 23rd July Weston Super Mare Sun, Sand, Pier!!! Summer Special	£15	£14	£10
Tues 25th July City of Bath Stunning Architecture, Great shopping, Iconic Attractions	£16		
Weds 26th July Elan Valley Dams & Builth Wells Midweek special	£16 or 2 £30		
Thurs 27th July Torquay Or Paignton The English Riviera Sand, Sea, Pier	£22	£20	£16
Sat 29th July Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Sand Piers Depart 6.00 apm *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Sat 29th - Sun 30th Mystery Weekend! Where will we be??? (2 days)		£79	
Sun 30th July Weston Super Mare Or Burnham Sun, Sand, Pier. Summer Special	£15	£14	£10
Sun 30th July Althorpe House & Gardens Princess Diana's Resting Place	£35	£32	£28
Mon 31st July Rhyl Or Llandudno Sun, Sand, Sea & Pier *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Tues 1st Aug Abergavenny Market & Ross Labels Factory Outlet Shop and Drop!!!	£15		
Weds 2nd Aug Mystery Meal tour, Day out with a stop for Lunch!!!	£22		
Thurs 3rd Aug Clarkes Village & Weston Super Mare *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Fri 4th Aug Lake Windermere, Including Boat Cruise and free time in Bowness!!	£30	£30	£22
Sat 5th Aug Royal Windsor, Castle, Sightseeing, Shopping something for all!!	£20	£18	£16
Sat 5th Aug Wellsbourne Market & Stratford and a Fish & Chips Tea	£12 or 2 £20		
Sat 5th Aug Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Sand, Piers Depart 6,00 pm *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Sun 6th Aug Weston Super Mare/Burnham Sun, Sand, Pier!!! Summer Special	£15	£14	£10
Sun 6th Aug Buckingham Palace State Rooms A Royal Day Out for All!!	£42	£32	
Tues 8th Aug Snowdonia Tour Llangollen, Betws-y-Coed, Llanberis Pass Llandudno	£20	£18	£16
Wed 9th Aug By The Sea Side By the Sea Mystery?????	£15 or 2 £28		
Thur 10th Aug The Mumbles, The Gower Coast 7 Swansea South Wales Cost	£22	£18	£16
Fri 11th Aug Shrewsbury Flower Show More than just a Flower Show!!!	£35	£34	£15
Sun 13th Aug Blackpool Air Show or Pleasure Beach, Sand Piers *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Sun 13th Aug Weston Super Mare Sun, Sand, Pier!!! Summer Special	£15	£14	£10
Mon 14th Aug Chester/Cheshire Oaks or Chester Zoo (adm not included) *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Tues 15th Aug Cotswolds Moreton in the Marsh & Bourton on the Water	£13 or 2 £22		
Weds 16th Aug Weymouth Carnival Sand, Sea & Carnival, Fun for all the Family	£22	£20	£16

	ADULT	OAP	CHILD
Thur 17th Aug Liverpool City of Culture/Sightseeing/Caverns *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Fri 18th Aug West Midland Safari Park Includes Tour & Admission	£20	£18	£17
Fri 18th Aug Plum Tour Pershore, Evesham, Plum Orchard with 2 hr guided tour	£13 or 2 £25		
Sat 19th Aug Barmouth via Bala lake Best sandy beaches in Wales!!	£18	£16	£13
Sat 19th Aug Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Sand Piers Depart 6.00 pm *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Sun 20th Aug HeartBeat Country, Aidensfield & Whitby Tour	£26	£25	£20
Sun 20th Aug Weston Super Mare Or Burnham Sun, Sand, Pier. Summer Special	£15	£14	£10
Mon 21st Aug Chesterfield Market & Matlock Bath Shopping & Sightseeing	£16 or 2 £30		
Tues 22nd Aug HighGrove Gardens guided tour, Home to Prince Charles & Camilla	£47.50		
Weds 23rd Aug Poppy Factory Tour See the history of 90 years of poppy making!!	£22	£20	£18
Thurs 24th Aug Llangollen, Horse Shoe Pass & Llandudno Midweek Special	£16		
Fri 25th Aug Sabrina Boat Cruise Live commentary, Hot Drinks & Free time in Shrewsbury	£18		
Sat 26th - Sun 27th Mystery Weekend! Where will we be??? (2 days)		£79	
Sat 26th Aug Cardiff Harbour Festival Shoreside entertainment for all the family	£18	£16	£13
Sat 26th Aug Barry Island Seaside, Town Home to TV Series Gavin & Stavey!!! *(f/s£55)*	£18	£16	£13
Sat 26th Aug Southport Sand, Sea Victorian Town *(f/s£55)*	£18	£16	£13
Sun 27th Aug Mystery Day Out! North South East or West??	£13 or 2 £25		
Sun 27th Aug Harry Potter Studio Tour "The Secrets Revealed"	£55	£55	£50
Sun 27th Aug Emmerdale Studio Experience & free time City of Leeds	£42	£40	£40
Mon 28th Aug Blackpool Bank Holiday Return 6pm *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Mon 28th Aug Weston Super Mare Bank Holiday Sun, Sand, Pier *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Mon 28th Aug Llandudno Bank Holiday, Victorian Town, Sand, Sea *(f/s £55)*	£18	£16	£13
Tues 20th Aug Llangollen Steam Railway & Cream Tea Scenic Steam Journey	£35	£33	£25
Wed 30th Aug Mystery Meal Tour, Day out with a stop for Lunch!!!	£22		
Thurs 31st Aug London the capital Sightseeing, Shopping, a great day out for all	£22	£20	£16
Fri 1st - Sun 3rd Torquay - Nethway Hotel (3 days)		£115	
Sat 2nd Sept Blackpool Illuminations Back to school special! Tour 1 hour max	£16 or 2 £30		
Sun 3rd Sept Weston Super Mare Sun, Sand, Pier!!! Summer Special (last one!!)	£15	£14	£10
Tues 5th Sept Hereford Via Malvern Hills & Hop Pocket Craft Centre	£13 or 2 £25		

	ADULT	OAP	CHILD
Thurs 7th Sept Bletchley Park Step Inside the Home of WW2 Code Breakers! One Price	£30		
Sat 9th Sept Wellsbourne Market & Stratford Grab a Bargain!!	£12 or 2 £20		
Sat 9th Sept City of Bath Stunning Architecture, Great shopping, Iconic Attractions	£16		
Sun 10th Sept Snowdon Mountain Railway Mountain Top Adventure 21/2 hour experience!!	£40		
Tues 12th Sept Cotswolds Moreton in the Marsh & Bourton on the Water	£13 or 2 £22		
Fri 15th Sept Word Famous Bury Market & Fish & Chips, Shopping & Teatime all in one!	£25		
Sat 16th Sept Portmierion Guided Tour & Woodland Land Train, Village Shops & Cafes	£30		
Sat 16th Sept Southport Air Show or Sand, Sea and Shops!! A day great for all!	£18	£16	£13
Mon 18th Sept Bakewell Market Home of the Bakewell Tart & Matlock Bath	£16 or 2 £30		
Weds 20th Sept Midweek Mystery, Scenic Route?? and Seaside resort????	£16		
Sat 23rd Sept Blackpool Illuminations Sand, Sea & Pleasure Beach tour 1 hour max	£20	£18	£16
Sat 23rd - Sun 24th Mystery Weekend! (2 days)		£79	
Sat 23rd Sept Liverpool City of Culture/Sightseeing/Caverns *(f/s£55)*	£18	£16	£13
Sun 24th Sept Malvern Autumn Show Stalls, Animals, Classic Cars, Stalls etc etc!! inc. Add	£30		
Tues 26th Sept Snowdonia Tour Llangollen, Betws-y-Coed, Llanberis Pass Llandudno	£20	£18	£16
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Fri 6th - Sun 8th Settle to Carlisle Railway (3 days)	£145		
Sat 14th - Sun 15th Mystery Weekend! (2 days)	£79		
Sat 14th Oct Mystery Weekend North South East or West?????			
Wed 18th Oct London Theatre Shows *42nd Street* Theatre Royal / *An American In Paris* Dominion Theatres — Matinee Performances Stall Seating Only			£65
Sat 21st - Mon 23rd Blackpool Illuminations - Carn Brae Hotel (3 days)	£149		
Sun 22nd - Mon 23rd London - 5 Star Waldorf Hotel - Treat yourself! (2 days)	£115		
Fri 3rd - Sun 5th Torquay - Nethway Hotel - Turkey & Tinsel (3 days)	£119		
Sat 11th - Sun 12th Mystery Weekend! (2 days)	£79		
Sun 17th - Mon 18th London - 5 Star Waldorf Hotel***** - Christmas Shopping (2 days)	£115		

Issue 3 Autumn/Winter 2017 Day Trip Leaflet out 1st September!!!

REMAINING HOLIDAYS FOR 2017

JULY 2017 HOLIDAYS INCLUDE EXCURSIONS AND FREE HOT DRINKS ON COACH
- Sat 22nd - Sat 29th Torquay - Nethway Hotel (8 days) £375
- Sun 30th - Fri 4th Ilfracombe - Imperial Hotel*** (6 days) £329

AUGUST 2017
- Sun 6th - Sat 12th Weymouth - Fairhaven Hotel (7 days) £399
- Mon 14th - Fri 18th Morecambe - Auckland Hotel (5 days) £279
- Tues 29th - Sat 2nd Isle of Wight - The Trouville Hotel, Sandown (5 days) £319

SEPTEMBER 2017
- Mon 4th - Fri 8th Lytham St Annes - Lindum Hotel (5 days) £279
- Mon 11th - Fri 15th Weymouth - Fairhaven Hotel (5 days) £299
- Mon 11th - Fri 15th Skegness - Savoy Hotel (5 days) £299
- Sun 17th - Thurs 21st Babbacombe - Hotel de la Mer (5 days) £279
- Mon 25th - Fri 29th Weston Super Mare - Sandringham Hotel (5 days) £239
- Mon 25th - Fri 29th Torquay - Nethway Hotel (5 days) £245
- Sat 30th - Wed 4th Bognor Regis - Royal Norfolk Hotel (5 days) £225

OCTOBER 2017
- Sun 8th - Fri 13th Newquay - Eliot Hotel (6 days) £269
- Mon 16th - Fri 20th Blackpool Illuminations - Carn Brae Hotel (5 days) £229
- Mon 23rd - Fri 27th Warners - Bodelwyddan Castle - NEW! (5 days) £335
- Mon 23rd - Fri 27th Paignton - Hotel Bonair esplanade (5 days) £239

NOVEMBER 2017
- Mon 6th - Fri 10th Bournemouth - Ullswater Hotel - Torquay and Tinsel (5 days) £275
- Sun 12th - Thur 16th Sidmouth - Royal York & Faulkner Hotel - Turkey & Tinsel (5 days) £299
- Mon 13th - Fri 17th Exmouth - Cavendish Hotel - Turkey & tinsel (5 days) £259
- Mon 20th - Fri 24th Eastbourne - Haddon Hall Hotel - Turkey & Tinsel (5 days) £290
- Mon 20th - Fri 24th Tenby - Clarence House Hotel - turkey & Tinsel (5 days) £279
- Mon 27th - Fri 1st Torquay - Nethway Hotel - Turkey & Tinsel (5 days) £239

DECEMBER 2017
- Sat 23rd - Wed 27th Ilfracombe - Imperial Hotel - Christmas (5 days) £425
- Sat 30th - Tues 2nd Babbacombe - Hotel de la Mer - New Year (4 days) £299

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Top quality and stunning

Commercial feature

OAKWOOD Lodge Park offers some spectacular views from its lodges nestled in the picturesque surroundings of mid-Wales.

From romantic breaks for couples to week-long holidays for all the family, self-catering lodges are available during winter, spring, summer or autumn, 365 days a year.

The quality self catering accommodation is in fully-equipped and centrally-heated log cabins. Guests can enjoy the small, peaceful and secluded park, set in 20 acres of land, including the bluebell filled woodland of about three acres.

Most lodges have private garden areas offering seclusion and privacy as well as the attractive panoramic view towards the magnificent Elan Valley, with its mountains, lakes and moors.

The park is just outside the market town of Rhayader and midway between the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia and Aberystwyth and Hereford.

Secure

Owner John said: "All lodges face south and have five-mile panoramic views across the valley. We are very dog friendly with secure fences right around the whole park. Most of our lodges have private hot tubs and we are open 365 days of the year.

"We offer romantic short breaks for couples, family holidays and welcome group bookings too.

"The quality of our lodges and the stunning views really are second to none, he added.

Our guests satisfaction comes first in everything we do. Many of our guests not only come back each year but many will visit several times a year."

Oakwood was first opened for guests in 1997 but was purchased by the current owners in April 2013. They spent the previous 11 years running a large and successful four-star bed and breakfast in Henley-on-Thames.

Since being at Oakwood, they have added three new premium lodges taking the total up to 14, 10 of which now have private hot tubs, which have proven particularly popular.

The owners, together with their live-in staff, have also re-surfaced the roads while a new guest reception was built and new signage erected on the lanes leading to the site. John added: "The objective was to continue to offer a quiet, relaxing holiday, that was pet friendly and to welcome all guests whether they are a couple, family or group.

"Being open 365 days a year and allowing check ins on any day of the week, with only a three-night minimum stay, means that Oakwood has a dedicated following of regular guests who return time and time again.

"The plans for the future include a couple more hot tubs, and perhaps one or two more lodges, but above all to retain the quiet, friendly and relaxing atmosphere that Oakwood has built its reputation on," he added.

More details on the lodges at Oakwood Lodge Park can be found on the website at www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk or by calling 01597 811422.

Alternatively, contact Oakwood for details via email on info@oakwoodlodges.co.uk.

They are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OakwoodLodgePark where a host of pictures and videos of the park can be found.

Chill out on this relaxing site and with panoramic views

Interior views of the high standard lodges

CONTACT US

Name: Oakwood Lodge Park
Address: Oakwood Lodge Park, Rhayader, Powys, LD6 5NT
Phone number: 01597 811422
Website: www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk

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WHAT'S ON
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Fri 9th June Karaoke Night
Sat 24th June The Animators
Sat 1st July Play It Again Sam
Sat 15th July The Hype

Les keeps it in the Addams Family!

Blimey. Where should we start? How about the bald head or the meltdown on Celebrity Big Brother? Or there was the bum-out-for-Ricky Gervais scene, on Extras, and the painful breakdown of his marriage to Amanda Holden.

Then there were the high times, the successful appearance on New Faces, the brilliant and well-remunerated 15-year stint as presenter on Family Fortunes and, more recently, the two year stint as Michael Rodwell in Coronation Street.

It's been quite a 63 years, for the ginger fella from Garston, near Liverpool. So tell us, Les, where do we start?

"The Addams family," he says. Ah yes, he's featuring in the musical comedy that's been successfully touring the UK and reaches Birmingham's Hippodrome on Tuesday, running until June 10. Les plays Uncle Hester, alongside Samantha Womack, as Moricia and Carrie Hope Fletcher as Wednesday.

Except Les didn't do the usual round of interviews to promote the work. Hell, no. Instead, he went on Loose Women and shaved his head. As you do.

"Before you called, I was giving it the once over with my Gillette," he says. "I tried the wig and it wasn't going to work eights times a week with the sweat and glue. So I shaved my head for charity and we did it on Loose Women.

"I wear a cap if it's cold but I've got used to going out without it now. I get recognised a bit, though mostly people look sympathetically and think I might be ill. But I'm privileged, I haven't lost my hair as some people sadly do. And the money we raised from the head shave has gone to a breast cancer charity."

He is lovelt but unmistakably nuts. Les is one of the most pleasant, most open and most honest fellas in showbusiness. He's climbed to the top of the mountain – 15 years hosting Family Fortunes made him a household name – and he's been in the depths of despair.

And though there's no second guessing the thrice-married father-of-three, who became a dad for the third time at 57, one thing is for certain: he'll continue to surprise us. That constant process of reinvention is what's kept him in the nation's consciousness for so many years.

"I've made a conscious decision to keep moving and keep reinventing," he says. "If you stay where you are, you stagnate. If I was hoping to do variety shows like I did at the Alex, in Birmingham, all those years ago then my days of work would be few and far between.

"You have to diversify and play different characters so that you can keep going as long as you like. You have to keep surprising people. The Guardian put The Addams Family in their 'Top Picks'. They said: 'The long and strange career of Les Dennis takes another turn'. I took that as a compliment. Nobody can second guess what I'll do next, me included. I don't have a plan. If somebody comes up with a good idea, I'll do it."

But doesn't some stuff do more harm than good? The Celebrity Big Brother appearance, for instance, when his marriage to Amanda Holden was on the rocks two years after her affair with Neil Morrissey. He doesn't dodge the question.

"Big Brother wasn't my finest hour but I came second. I was confused by what was happening. But then people say do you regret it? And I answer that if I hadn't done that then Ricky Gervais wouldn't have called me and he gave me the chance to redeem myself on Extras."

And Les was brilliant in Extras – he smashed it out of the park in one of his funniest and probably-most-authentic roles.

"Ricky was brilliant to work with. I'm sitting in the dressing room where we filmed extras at Wimbledon right now. I've got great fond memories of working on that and the special. Ricky's great. When you work with him, you get it done and then you have a laugh. I'd work with him again, like a shot."

The strange twists and turns are unfathomable – though it was ever thus. From the an early run of comedy TV shows including New Faces, Russ Abbot's Madhouse and The Russ Abbot Show, there have been unlikely roles in Merseybeat, Casualty, Crossroads and Family Affairs, not forgetting Brookside. There there's been The Bill, Hotel Babylon and Celebrity Masterchef. His agent must have a field day.

"Well it was my agent who came up with this. After leaving Corrie, my agent asked if I wanted to see the producers of The Addams Family. I knew the show had been a big hit in the New York and people were waiting for it to come over. We are the first UK cast, so we got to originate this version of it.

"The whole point is that the audience has to work out who is normal and who isn't. That's the thing. At one stage, Grandma says 'define normal'. And she's so right because every family is dysfunctional in some way. Over the course of the show, you realise that The Addams Family are a totally loving and caring family." Birmingham will be a blast for the often-returning actor, who's made the city a home from home. I've spent loads of time in the city. We did Family Fortunes we started at ATV as well as New Faces, all those years ago. So I go back with Birmingham a long way. And I've worked at the Hippodrome many times. I did Hairspray with Brian Conley and a show with Su Pollard. I've done Birmingham Rep and The Alex a few times as well. The audiences in Birmingham are always absolutely delightful. They're one of the best in the country."

Les's trials and tribulations are, it seems, a long way behind him. And, while maintaining a successful and decidedly entertaining career, he's also happily married to Claire Nicholson, who he married in 2009. They love nothing more than spending time with their kids.

"I just love being a parent. It was a surprise to me to have two kids. I didn't expect it. My son Philip is 37 and my little ones Eleanor and Tom are nine and six. I adore them all. Philip is their big brother and he's great with them. I do the school run and any spare time is with the kids. Even on a tour like this, we have a lot of the dates in the summer where they come along, like Southampton, Cardiff, Dublin and Southend. They love it. I make the pancakes for them in the morning.

"They love being around the theatre and they come to the warm up and stand on the stage. They were a little scared of Lurch at first, but now they're cool."

And so, remarkably, is Les. One of the most genuine and sincere performers in the theatre, he's made a career out of left-turns, without going round in circles.

● For more entertainment news see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Black humour – Les stars as Uncle Fester in the Addams Family

The audience has to work out who is normal and who isn't

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A scene from Running Wild

Jungle adventure with girl saved by an elephant

LIFE-SIZE animal puppets, akin to those created for the hit play War Horse, will feature in the the latest stage adaptation of a Michael Morpurgo novel, Running Wild, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday (June 6-10).

Children's Touring Partnership has taken to the road with the first UK Tour of Running Wild, in an adaptation by Samuel Adamson. It's an award-winning family audience play originally produced by Regent's Park Theatre and Chichester Festival Theatre.

This epic production, complete with spectacular life-size puppets, tells an emotional story of love, loss and loyalty. It is the story of a girl named Lilly, who takes an elephant ride whilst on holiday with her mother in Indonesia. Oona, the elephant, suddenly runs from the beach into the jungle with Lilly on her back. It saves their lives, as moments later a tsunami hits the island.

Miles from civilisation, there's wonder, discovery and adventures with the orangutans, but then thoughts turn to her mother, tigers and hunger. Lilly must learn to survive in the rainforest. Then the hunters come.

Morpurgo, former children's laureate and author of War Horse, was inspired by the real-life story of Amber Owen, who was on holiday in Phuket with her mother and stepfather in 2004 when she went on an elephant ride. The eight-year-old noticed the elephant was attempting to pull away from the receding sea water. The animal ran away and thereby saved her life.

The production will work to support the Born Free Foundation's global elephant conservation projects.

Tickets are available online at grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling 01902 429212.

Pixx of the week with BRIT graduate

Look out for Pixx, she's set to be the next graduate of the BRIT School to make a big stir on the pop scene.

The Croydon school for performing arts has already produced such major talents as Amy Winehouse, Adele, Jessie J, Leona Lewis, Katie Melua, Kate Nash, Ella Eyre and Katy B.

Pixx's debut album, The Age Of Anxiety, is released tomorrow (Friday) and the 12 song collection is an impressive start featuring smart, catchy pop songs.

Pixx – the alter ego of Hannah Rodgers, pictured – also has something to sing about. Songs such as I Bow Down, Grip, Baboo and the new single Waterslides, seeks to address a generation increasingly isolated, whether it be due to the pressures of social media or political turbulence.

The Age Of Anxiety borrows its title from WH Auden's final poem, charting one man's quest to find substance and identity in a shifting and increasingly industrialised world. Published in 1947, Auden's six-part rumination on human isolation in the modern age has had a profound effect on the young singer-songwriter from Surrey.

Rodgers experienced a year-long period of insomnia caused by recurring nightmares at the age of nine. It left a lasting impression, inspiring a fascination with different states of consciousness, and she draws upon that for her album.

To celebrate the release of The Age Of Anxiety, Hannah Rodgers and her three-piece band will play six UK shows during album release week, including Birmingham venue The Hare & Hounds, in Kings Heath, on Tuesday, June 6.

Other gigs worth checking out include: YouTube vlogger and singer-songwriter Emma Blackery at the O2 Institute 2 in Birmingham on Saturday, or head across the city centre that night for a co-headline gig by The Americas and The Jackrobins, with support from Spilt Milk Society and Junior Weeb at the O2 Aacademy 3.

Brit Award nominated singer Beth Rowley is back and has a gig at Birmingham's Sunflower Lounge on Thursday, June 8.

Witch hunt drama is American classic

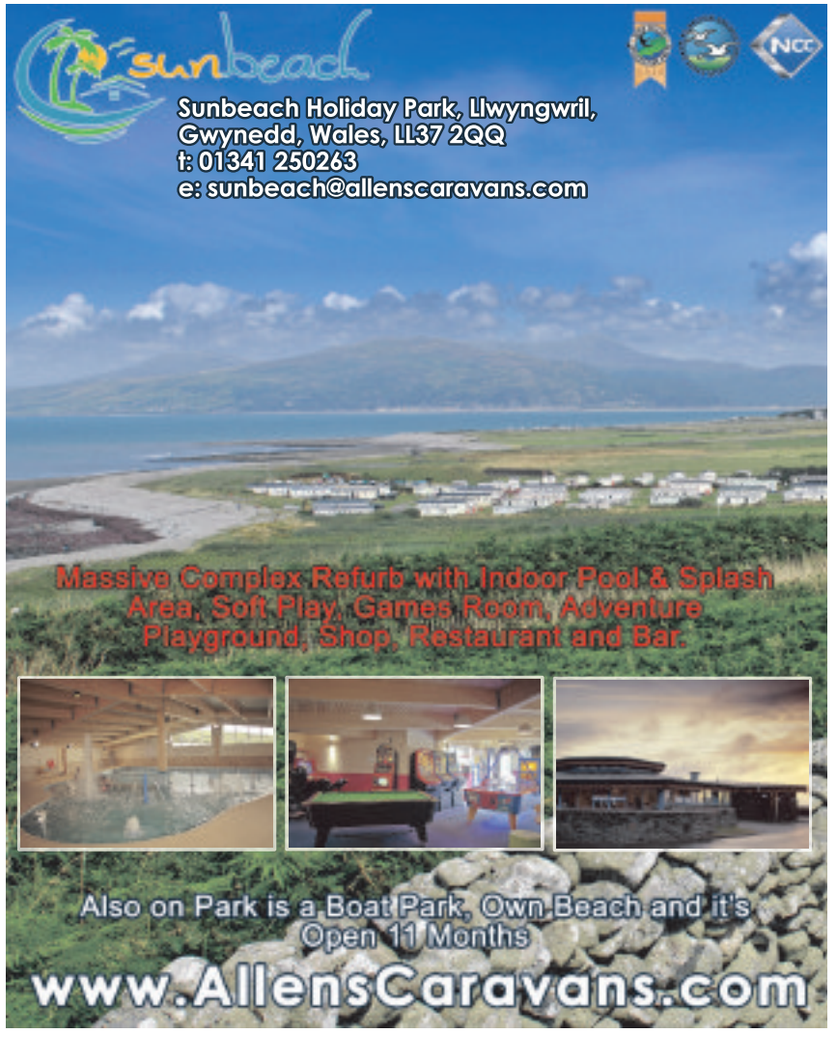
The awful consequences of rash retribution based on fear and hysteria is examined in Arthur Miller's powerful play, The Crucible, a landmark of American theatre.

The latest production of this classic, in which the Salem witch hunt is an allegory for McCarthyism in '50s America, will feature Charlie Condou (from Coronation Street) and Call The Midwife's Victoria Yeates (pictured). It is staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday. Call 0844 871 3011.

Looking for Trouble, found the right place

R&B group Vintage Trouble bring high-energy soul to The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton on Sunday. The LA-based quartet have opened shows for The Rolling Stones and The Who, and in Ty Taylor have a frontman very much in the tradition of Otis Redding and Wilson Pickett. Special guest Laurence Jones. Black Country bluesman Ian Parker and his Band are at the Robin 2 tonight (Thursday). Other highlights at the Bilston venue include From The Jam tomorrow, and a charity gig in aid of Compton Hospice by 1960s veterans Regency Lemon on Saturday.

Another veteran of the 60s music scene, Terry Reid, plays the Robin 2 on Wednesday. According to rock folklore, Reid turned down an offer to front Led Zeppelin and recommended his pal Robert Plant instead. Special guest Nikki Rous.



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SATURDAY'S TV JUNE 3

CHOICE

Peter Capaldi

Doctor Who (BBC1, 7.35pm)
The whole world has fallen under the sway of a mass delusion, and it seems only Bill Potts can see through it. Even the Doctor is unable to comprehend the truth, meaning it is up to Bill to set the record straight by persuading her friend that humanity is in deadly danger. But a Time Lord's conviction is not easily broken, and with the fate of an entire species on the line, if Bill cannot get the Doctor on-side, she may find herself forced to kill him. Sci-fi drama, with Peter Capaldi, Pearl Mackie, Matt Lucas, Emma Handy, Beatrice Curnew, Stewart Wright, Solomon Israel, Jamie Hill and Rosie Jane, with guest star Michelle Gomez.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.15 Film:** How to Train Your Dragon. (2010) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Jay Baruchel. **4.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.30** BBC News. **5.40** Regional Programme. **5.50 Film:** Raiders of the Lost Ark. (1981) Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford.

7.35 Doctor Who. Bill steps into the role of the hero when she discovers everyone in the world has fallen under the sway of a mass delusion, including the Doctor. Guest starring Michelle Gomez.

8.25 Casualty. Elle agrees to deliver a career talk at her son Blake's school, but her speech is derailed when she discovers some unexpected truths about her child and his friends. Luckily, Josh and Jacob are on hand to help.

9.15 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes becomes concerned when Dermot announces he wants to ask his childhood friend Buster, a known criminal, to be his best man. However, she is distracted when her neighbour Winnie's husband is rushed to hospital, leaving her son trying to raise funds for his wedding by getting embroiled in a money-making scheme. (R)

9.45 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.05 Clique. Faced with undeniable proof of the darkness at the heart of the world she and Georgia have entered, Holly faces a very real dilemma. Unable to turn to Rory for support, she instead seeks advice from a new group of friends, who conspire with her to drag the truth out into the light of day. Doing so will bring the world crashing down around those who previously thought themselves unassailable, but will also serve as a point of no return for Holly.

10.50 Clique. Holly is forced to ally herself with Rachel, and doubts every choice she has made throughout her first term as she races to bring Georgia back from the brink. Last in the series.

11.35 Film: The Spectacular Now. (2013) Drama, starring Miles Teller and Shailene Woodley.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 Film: Never a Dull Moment. (1950) **8.10 Film:** Goodbye, Mr Chips. (1939) **10.00** Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.30 Film:** Ivanhoe. (1952) Medieval adventure, starring Robert Taylor. **3.15** Natural World. (R) **4.00** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Film: Grow Your Own. (2007) Town residents are outraged when a refugee family is given space on their allotments to help rehabilitate a traumatised father – but both groups unite in a common cause when a mobile phone company plans to build a mast in the area. Comedy drama, starring Benedict Wong and Olivia Colman.

7.30 The Lake District: A Wild Year. For the wildlife and people who live amid the stunning scenery of the Lake District, life is one of continuous change. This documentary features cutting-edge camera techniques offering a new and unique perspective on a turbulent year in the life of England's largest national park. Time-lapse photography shows months and weeks passing in seconds – snow and ice giving way to sunshine or the frequent rain showers – while the animals, plants and people find extraordinary ways to cope with the challenges of this ancient landscape. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and his platoon are put in charge of manning an observation post on a derelict pier, but they are marooned when their boat drifts away. (R)

9.00 Sgt Pepper's Musical Revolution – with Howard Goodall. The composer explores why the Beatles' 50-year-old album is still revered as an innovative, revolutionary and influential release.

10.00 Film: The Sapphires. (2012) Four Aboriginal Australian singers are propelled to stardom when they entertain American troops in the Vietnam War. Drama, starring Deborah Mailman.

11.40 Cricket: Champions Trophy Highlights.

12.30 Versailles. (R) Inside Versailles. **1.30 Film:** Miss Bala. (2011) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Sooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** ITV Racing: The Opening Show. **10.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.20** Tipping Point. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Bigheads. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing Live: The Derby. Coverage of the Epsom Derby. **5.00** You've Been Framed! Unleashed! (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Take Me Out. A ventriloquist from Reading, a property developer from Richmond, a judo coach from Perth and a Michael Jackson impersonator from Southport try to win a date. Last in the series.

8.00 The British Soap Awards 2017: Live. For the first time in its 18-year history, the annual award show is presented live, as Phillip Schofield welcomes the stars Coronation Street, Doctors, EastEnders, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks to gather at the Lowry in Salford in celebration of the year's best soapland plotlines. Making use of the results of a public vote, along with the verdict of a panel of expert judges, the winners of the Best Actor and Actress, Villain of the Year, Best Newcomer, Scene of the Year and more are revealed. Last year, Emmerdale claimed the coveted Best Soap award, while EastEnders' Lacey Turner nabbed the Best Actress award for the 10th time.

10.00 The Keith and Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness present their half-hour remake of Rocky, starring Anna Friel, Marvin Humes and Andi Peters. Last in the series.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 UEFA Champions League Highlights. Juventus v Real Madrid. Mark Pougatch presents action from the final of the prestigious competition, which took place at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff.

11.45 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents. (R)

12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Marathon: Tobago International Sea to Sea Marathon. **6.45** Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.15** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

6.55 Party Election Broadcast.

7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke returns to Harrogate, North Yorkshire, to check on the progress of Carol and Majid Nadry, who after 25 years living in a bungalow, embarked on an ambitious midlife adventure – buying a water tower to turn into a five-storey home. After huge delays and eye-watering legal costs, the couple have finally built the two-storey extension that was the key to creating a family home with character. George sees how the industrial heritage of this unique building is beautifully complemented by a 21st-century glass and sheet-metal extension that finally realises the old water tower's hidden potential. (R)

8.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. The historian explores the UK's network of ancient trackways and roads, which have been walked by pilgrims, hunters and invaders over the course of the past 5,000 years. (R)

9.00 Film: Legend. (2015) Premiere. Biopic of the Kray brothers, exploring their rise to power in the London underworld and conflicts with rival gangs from the point of view of Reggie's wife Frances, who remains devoted to her husband even as he remains equally bound to his brutal, unstable sibling. Starring Tom Hardy as both twins.

11.35 Film: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy. (2011) Cold War thriller, starring Gary Oldman and Colin Firth.

1.50 The Last Leg. (R) **2.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.55** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. **5.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.20** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.55** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors: The Fatal Four. (R) **1.15** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **2.15** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **3.10** Benefits Britain: Me & My 14 Kids. (R) **4.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Officers chase £4,500 in court fees in North Wales after a property deal turned sour, and in Birmingham the agents try to collect over £3,500 from a single mum who defaulted on loan repayments. Elsewhere in Worcestershire, the enforcement agents try to recover more than £10,000 from a shop-keeper for fraudulently keeping a deposit during a property sale. (R)

7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. Part two of two. The Chameleon's planted clues lead the team on a wild goose chase as it searches for NSA agent Mike Atley, who the criminal claims to have in his custody. Callen is faced with a difficult decision when he is told to release the Chameleon in order to save Atley's life, and contemplates subduing his nemesis once and for all. Last in the series.

8.00 NCIS. Ziva's family farm in Israel is devastated by an explosion, and the former NCIS agent is reported dead. Determined to seek justice, Tony ignores orders to stay off the case and sets out to track down Trent Kort, the British national and ex-CIA agent who remains the prime suspect. Last in the series.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of the 90s. A countdown of infamous incidents from the 1990s, including Hugh Grant's arrest and OJ Simpson's murder trial. The programme also looks back at Eric Cantona kicking a fan during a match, Jarvis Cocker interrupting Michael Jackson's performance at the Brit awards, and David and Victoria Beckham's lavish wedding. Featuring contributions from Louis Walsh, Shaun Ryder, Bez, Michael Burke, Darren Day, Gail Porter, Tim Vincent, Liz McClarnon and Kerry Katona. (R)

12.05 Access. **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Setup. (2011)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Saints and Sinners: Britain's Millennium of Monasteries **8.00** The Search for Alfred the Great **9.00** Cardinal **10.25** Sounds of the Eighties **11.20** Lionel Richie – Dancing on the Ceiling **12.20** Lionel Richie at the BBC **1.20** Top of the Pops: The Story of 1984 **2.20** Top of the Pops: 1984 **3.20** Sounds of the Seventies **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.15 Britain's Got Talent **12.50** Britain's Got Talent Results **1.15** Take Me Out **2.35** Take Me Out – The Gossip **3.40 Film:** What a Girl Wants (2003) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** What a Girl Wants (2003) **5.50 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **8.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **9.00 Film:** The Fast and the Furious (2001) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Fast and the Furious (2001) **11.10** Family Guy **1.10** American Dad! **2.05** Through the Keyhole **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.05 FYI Daily **11.10 Film:** Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) **11.55 Film:** Columbo: The Most Crucial Game (1972) **1.35** Wycliffe **2.45** A Touch of Frost **4.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.50** Endeavour **9.00** Foyle's War **11.10** A Touch of Frost **1.20** Wycliffe **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
9.00 TT 2017: Superbike TT Race **10.00** Joey: The Man Who Conquered the TT **11.30 Film:** Hard Target (1993) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** Hard Target (1993) **1.25** TT 2017: Superbike TT Race **2.30** Tommy Cooper **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
1.10 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **1.20 Film:** A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures (2010) **3.05 Film:** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Tower Heist (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.00** Rude Tube **2.05** Tattoo Fixers **3.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.50** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.10** Kevin Can Wait **4.30** Black-ish **4.50** How I Met Your Mother

Film4
11.00 Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **1.00** Parental Guidance (2012) **3.05** Rio (2011) **4.50** Porridge (1979) **6.40** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **9.00** The Grey (2011) Eight stranded oil rig workers must make a gruelling journey across the Alaskan tundra, stalked by a pack of ferocious wolves. Adventure, starring Liam Neeson and Frank Grillo. **11.15** The Hole (2009) Horror, starring Chris Massoglia. **1.05** Sinister (2012) **3.20** Close

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WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE

SUNDAY'S TV JUNE 4

CHOICE

Ant and Dec

Britain's Got Talent Final (ITV, 7.30pm)
Ant and Dec host the climax of this year's nationwide talent search. After a week of semi-final rounds, the finalists have been chosen and will give one last performance in a bid to win the support of the British public. Judges David Walliams, Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon and Amanda Holden will once again have their hands poised over the famous red buzzers - but the votes cast by viewers will decide who will be this year's winner and get the chance to appear at this year's Royal Variety Performance. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Pentecost with the Archbishop of Canterbury. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Shop Well for Less? (R) **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.45** Points of View. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Question Time Leaders Special. David Dimbleby presents a Leaders' Special Question Time with Tim Farron of the Liberal Democrats, and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the SNP.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison report from Essex, visiting a restored oyster boat, a nature reserve for dragonflies, and a colony of common seals, and meeting people who build racing rowing boats. Steve Brown learns to fire a medieval longbow, Tom Heap reports on environmental damage caused by spoil heaps, and Adam Henson and Charlotte Smith meet a contender for Countryfile's Young Farmer Award.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a second show from New Lanark on the banks of the Clyde, where items brought in to be valued include diamonds that were found after being hidden inside an upholstered chair, a claret jug that was rescued from a pawn shop, and a banner for Britain's oldest subscription library, founded in 1741.

9.00 Planet Earth II: A World of Wonder. A compilation of some of the most spectacular footage from the series, following wildlife living in jungles, mountains, deserts, islands, grasslands and cities.

10.00 BBC News.

10.25 Regional Programme.

10.35 Election Questions. Green Party leader Jonathan Bartley and UKIP leader Paul Nuttall answer questions from a studio audience. Presented by Jo Coburn.

11.35 Election Questions. A discussion on the key issues of the General Election, with questions from a studio audience.

12.05 The Women's Football Show. **12.40 Film:** Up There. (2012) **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **1.45** Laurence Olivier: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.15 Film:** Pride and Prejudice. (1940) Period drama, starring Laurence Olivier. **4.10** Natural World. (R) **5.10** Flog It! (R)

6.00 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. Documentary following the work of more than 10,000 people as they race to build Crossrail – a new 73-mile train line linking east and west London, costing £15billion. As they excavate the 26 miles of tunnels, engineers must make sure that listed buildings don't crack, London Underground trains keep running, roads don't have to be shut and the City stays in business. Crucially, they must drive one of their gigantic 1,000-ton tunnel-boring machines through a narrow gap at Tottenham Court Road station without disturbing the passengers on the platforms below. (R)

7.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the profit-making potential of a fledgling fashion business, a brand of pork scratchings and a device for folding paper. (R)

8.00 The Life Swap Adventure. A nurse from Nottingham who wants to live somewhere with a sense of community swaps places with a B&B owner from Alaska, who is hoping to escape her small-town life.

9.00 Paul Hollywood's Big Continental Road Trip. Paul spends six days exploring Germany in six different cars, visiting a Cold War checkpoint, a nudist colony, and the Nurburgring racetrack, where he is joined by comic Al Murray.

10.00 White Gold. Vincent, Fitzpatrick and Lavender meet a group of men from a local publishing company, and in the showroom, receptionist Carol tries to get to grips with the new office computer. (R)

10.30 Dara O Briain Crowd Tickler. (R)

11.30 Cricket: Champions Trophy Highlights. India v Pakistan.

12.20 Film: Salvage. (2009) **1.35** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.35** Holby City. (R) **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Sooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.05** ITV News; Weather. **12.20 Film:** The Queen. (2006) Fact-based drama about how the royal family and Tony Blair dealt with the aftermath of the death of Princess Diana. Starring an Oscar-winning Helen Mirren, with Michael Sheen. **2.25** Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine in the hope of winning up to £10,000. (R) **3.25** Live: Michael Carrick Testimonial. Manchester United '08 XI v Michael Carrick All Star XI (Kick-off 4.00pm). Coverage of the match at Old Trafford honouring the career of the longstanding Red Devils midfielder.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.25 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. (R)

7.30 Britain's Got Talent Final. Ant and Dec host the climax of this year's nationwide talent search, with viewers casting their votes to decide which of the acts will be this year's champion. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (R)

11.25 Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera. Alastair Stewart presents extraordinary eyewitness footage filmed by members of the public, featuring fearsome storms, encounters with nature and dramatic rescues. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00 Film:** The Tigger Movie. (2000) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Jim Cummings. **3.35** Winnie-the-Pooh: The Most Famous Bear in the World. (R) **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Homes by the Sea.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Supervet. A champion running dog is admitted to see if Noel and the team can fix its abnormal elbow joint, and a couple have a nerve-racking wait while their Rhodesian ridgeback undergoes a high-risk operation to relieve the pressure on the nerves in its spine. Noel also treats an injured dog belonging to a friend from the gym. (R)

8.00 Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge. Dick Strawbridge and Will Hardie take a look at a cabin inspired by the legend of King Arthur and a low-tech double-decker tepee. They also travel further afield in search of inspiration for their own projects, visiting a sea fort in the English Channel and a romantic retreat in Sussex.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Offred and her fellow handmaids are called on to assist as Janine prepares to give birth on behalf of her owners. The experience brings back upsetting memories, as she looks back on having a baby of her own in the years before the despotic Gilead regime came to power. Offred develops a closer relationship with Ofglen, but fears for her future when she is summoned to a secret meeting with the Commander. Second episode of the drama based on Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel, starring Elisabeth Moss.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 Micky Flanagan's Out Out Tour. A performance by the comedian from his nationwide tour. (R)

12.10 Film: Apocalypto. (2006) **2.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **3.15** KOTV Boxing Weekly.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Mr Men. **6.15** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.25** Wissper. (R) **6.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.45** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.55** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.10** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.10** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.25** Wissper. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Little Princess. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.50** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.25** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. **10.50** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors: Rookies and Raids. (R) **12.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40 Film:** Asteroid: Final Impact. (2015) Disaster thriller, starring Mark Lutz. **3.20 Film:** 10.0 Earthquake. (2014) Disaster movie, starring Cameron Richardson. **5.05 Film:** 2012. (2009) Disaster movie, starring John Cusack.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Film: Jackie Chan's The Forbidden Kingdom. (2008) An American teenager obsessed with kung fu movies is sent back in time to ancient China, where he joins the battle to free the imprisoned Monkey King. The only problem is he has no martial arts skills of his own, and will need the assistance of two legendary warriors to become the hero he needs to be. Martial arts adventure, starring Jet Li and Jackie Chan.

10.00 Film: The Expendables 2. (2012) The mercenary team battles a rival band of hired guns who have killed one of their number. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Jean-Claude Van Damme. Includes 5 News Update at 11pm.

11.50 Greatest Ever Disaster Movies. Countdown as voted for by viewers of Channel 5 and readers of The Times, with contributions from actors including Robert Vaughn, George Kennedy and Ali Larter. (R)

1.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Top 20 Funniest. A countdown of the funniest video clips in America. (R) **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. Part two of two. A disco designed specifically for dogs. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. A selection of highlights. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Egypt's Lost Queens **8.00** Egypt's Lost Cities **9.30** Egyptian Journeys with Dan Cruickshank **10.00** Arena: American Epic **11.00** Southern Rock at the BBC **12.00** Later... Folk America **1.00** Timeshift: Bridging the Gap – How the Severn Bridge Was Built **2.00** Engineering Giants: Gas Rig Strip-Down **3.00** Queen of Tigers: Natural World Special **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.10 Take Me Out **12.40** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.45** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.45 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.30 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.25 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **10.00** Britain's Got More Talent: Final **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.50 FYI Daily **11.55 Film:** The Nun's Story (1959) **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** Foyle's War **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This **12.05** A Touch of Frost **2.15** Heartbeat **3.05** May the Best House Win **4.45** On the Buses **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
9.00 TT 2017 **10.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights **11.00** World Rugby U20 Championship Highlights **12.00** BRDC Formula 3 Championship Highlights **1.05** TT 2017 **2.10** Tommy Cooper **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea Does Come Dine with Me **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** The Goldbergs **2.55 Film:** The Core (2003) **5.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Rude Tube **11.00** Tattoo Fixers **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.00** First Dates **3.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Picture Perfect (1997) **1.00** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **2.45** ParaNorman (2012) **4.35** Mirror Mirror (2012) **6.45** About Time (2013) **9.00** Red (2010) **11.10** 48 Hrs (1982) **1.00** Rust and Bone (2012) **3.30** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Captain Corelli's Mandolin, ITV, 10.50pm
A soldier in the Italian invasion force controlling the Greek island of Kefalonia during the Second World War falls for a local girl, much to the disapproval of the local community, her family and the leader of the island's resistance movement – who happens to be her boyfriend. Romantic drama, adapted from the novel by Louis de Bernieres, starring Nicolas Cage, Penelope Cruz and Christian Bale. (2001)

TUESDAY
Framed for Murder: A Fixer Upper Mystery, Channel 5, 3.20pm
Small-town restoration company boss Shannon Hughes is called into help renovate a 19th-century home, only for a neighbouring resident to wind up dead. Suspecting foul play, Shannon teams up with a handsome client to turn amateur sleuth, making use of her expertise in period property to get to the bottom of the crime. Light-hearted mystery, starring Jewel Kilcher and Colin Ferguson. (2017)

Elizabeth: The Golden Age, Wednesday, ITV, 11.25pm

WEDNESDAY
Elizabeth: The Golden Age, ITV, 11.25pm
Queen Elizabeth I faces threats at home and abroad, as Mary, Queen of Scots plots against her while the King of Spain builds a vast armada to undertake an invasion of England. Unable to reconcile her feelings for the dashing Sir Walter Raleigh with her duty to her country, the monarch engineers a romance between the courtier and one of her ladies-in-waiting. Historical drama sequel, with Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen, Geoffrey Rush and Samantha Morton. (2007)

THURSDAY
Reluctant Witness, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman in a witness protection programme must protect her new life and family when a man from her past turns up. Thriller, starring Mia Kirshner. (2014)

FRIDAY
The Proposal, BBC1, 11.25pm
A Canadian publishing editor trying to avoid deportation from America bribes her assistant into a marriage of convenience. Romantic comedy, with Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds. (2009)

Getting the inside story on an extraordinary case

He was one of Hollywood's brightest and wealthiest stars, a role model to African-Americans and philanthropist for black causes. Bill Cosby was, undeniably, an American icon.

Born in Philadelphia in 1937, he came to prominence as the first black American actor to land a starring role in a mainstream TV drama, playing the role of Alexander Scott in the secret agent adventure series I Spy in 1965.

Throughout the 1970s he appeared in a number of films, but his career went through the stratosphere when he produced and starred in eponymous sitcom The Cosby Show, which was rated as the No.1 show in America for five years from 1984 to 1989

Cosby's alter ego, the amiable obstetrician Dr Cliff Huxtable, was his crowning glory, and the impact of the show was enormous, redefining the way African-American families were represented on television.

His biographer Mark Whitaker summed up the entertainer's legacy: "Historians will measure the seismic impact of The Cosby Show on the entertainment industry and on American society.

"And they will point out how, by implanting such a positive image of black family life in the national consciousness, it helped Americans envision sending a black president and his wife and daughters to live in the White House less than two decades later."

Cosby inhabited the role of Dr Huxtable so completely and for such a long time that many people were perhaps fooled into thinking the character and creator were pretty much the same person.

However, such assumptions are rarely ever correct, and despite his 'America's Dad' persona, there was, allegedly, a dark side to Cosby's life off-screen.

Over the past decade, the actor and comedian, who turns 80 next month, has been accused of drugging and raping women with impunity throughout his career.

For years, accusations from numerous women fell on deaf ears, but ironically it was Cosby's own public pronouncements on morality which brought forth a criminal case.

When comedian Hannibal Buress publicly denounced Cosby as a rapist in 2014 without reprisal, dozens of women came forward alleging similar behaviour.

However, because their cases happened such a long time ago Cosby will face a criminal trial for only one of them. Today, on June 5, 2017, Cosby is, in Montgomery County in his home state of Pennsylvania, charged with sexual assault on a woman named Andrea Constand.

The trial is effectively the result of a single night, in January 2004, when Cosby is accused of drugging and sexually assaulting Constand, a then-30-year-old former Temple University women's basketball staffer, at his suburban home.

This film tells the story of how Cosby finally came to stand trial and explores why it took so long for allegations about him to be taken seriously.

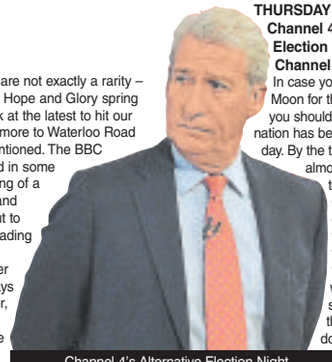
Bill Cosby: Fall of an American Icon, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Big Brother: Live Launch
Channel 5, 8.30pm
It may only seem two minutes since January's 'Celebrity' run, but summer has finally arrived so Emma Willis is on hand to welcome another group of fame-seeking individuals into the revamped Big Brother house. This year, the theme is 'the United Kingdom of Big Brother – and everyone is welcome'. The famous 'eye' logo has been given a multi-coloured Union Jack makeover, while the housemates have been chosen from a range of backgrounds for what Channel 5 is describing as the ultimate social experiment. Although the identities of the housemates remains top secret, in a recent trailer teaser one person says: 'I am an heir to a country estate', while another confesses 'I had to marry in secret'. Get set for a few weeks of collaboration, contrasts and conflicts.

TUESDAY
Tried and Tasted: The Ultimate Shopping List
Channel 4, 8pm
Chef Michel Roux Jr and a panel of food experts blind taste-test some of the nation's favourite food and drink. Joining the host is London restaurant manager and First Dates' Fred Sirieix; journalist, broadcaster and critic Jay Rayner; baker and deli owner Stacie Stewart, and TV presenter Lucy Alexander. The products tested are apple pie, Scotch whisky, and lamb shanks. Plus, members of the public vote for the tastiest baked beans. Be warned: this may lead to a serious case of fridge-raiding during the break.

WEDNESDAY
Ackley Bridge
Channel 4, 8pm
TV dramas set in schools are not exactly a rarity – Grange Hill, Teachers and Hope and Glory spring to mind – but an early look at the latest to hit our screens suggests it owes more to Waterloo Road than any of the others mentioned. The BBC series was much-maligned in some quarters, but was something of a guilty pleasure to others, and Ackley Bridge may turn out to make a similar impact. Heading the cast are former EastEnders stars Jo Joyner and Paul Nicholls. She plays headteacher Mandy Carter, while he takes the role of PE teacher Steve Bell. The drama takes place in the Yorkshire town, home to largely divided white and Asian communities. Even the two local high schools are segregated – but that all changes when one of them is closed down, forcing teenagers of all colours and religions under one roof.


Channel 4's Alternative Election Night, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

THURSDAY
Channel 4's Alternative Election Night
Channel 4, 9pm
In case you've been living on the Moon for the past couple of months, you should be well aware that the nation has been going to the polls all day. By the time this programme airs, almost everyone who wants to cast their vote will have done so – polling stations close at 10pm, and in a few hours, the first results will begin filtering through. If the idea of watching the oh-so-serious action unfold on the BBC, ITV or Sky doesn't float your boat, then Channel 4 has the perfect antidote.

Jeremy Paxman, David Mitchell and Richard Osman take charge of the proceedings and will be joined by a number of studio guests offering their views. While Paxman takes charge of the interviews, Mitchell and Osman are more irreverent, and the trio are joined by Cathy Newman and Gary Gibbon, who will analyse any breaking news.

FRIDAY
Gogglesprogs
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. The first of a new six-part run in which the nation's younger viewers maintain a close eye on a range of TV output. This series sees the existing army of junior sofa critics supplemented by newcomers Roma, Joel, Jack, Sadie, Declan, Amelinda and Yoanna, who join in to offer their honest, inimitable and ultimately hilarious take on recent shows to hit the small-screen. Items under scrutiny in this opening edition include coverage of the General Election and the classic movie Grease.

Question Time
BBC1, 8.30pm
David Dimbleby chairs a special edition of the topical debate from London as guests from the worlds of politics and the media answer questions posed by members of the public.

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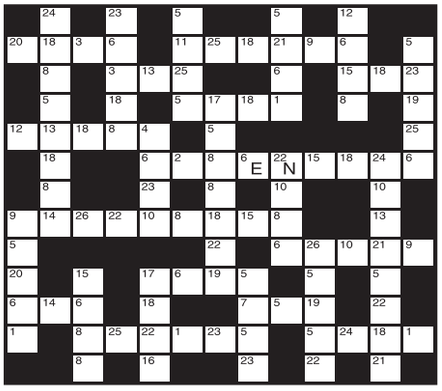
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

BRAIN GYM

No.432

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



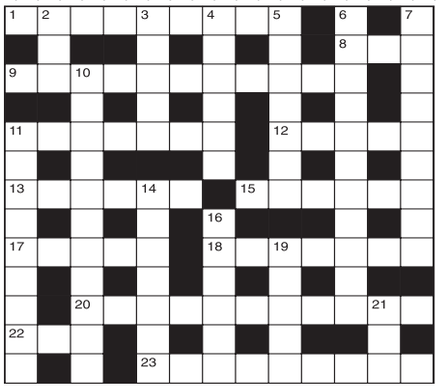
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 E	19
7	20
8	21
9	22 N
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
O	P	W	N	Z	K	G	L	Q	I	A	E	S
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	X	D	T	H	R	Y	C	J	F	B	U	V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. What biased sporting photographers do! (4,5)
8. See 17 Across
9. End, as even the longest sentences do (4,2,1,4)
11. Defensive wall to appear different near the top of the trench (7)
12. Why Dracula hides another monster (5)
13. Right among those different people! (6)
15. Fixes a water system for the fruit, we hear (6)
17 & 8Ac. He's saddled with the pack (8)
18. Noble baritone gets upset when I leave (7)
20. Tree producing pumice? (8,3)
22. One about to show bad temper (3)
23. An expert in physics (9)

Down

2. A tailless hound causes a fuss (3)
3. Is put in trouble - don't retire (3,2)
4. Rough sketches for indoor game, we hear (6)
5. What the schoolboy carries will upset nearly all the class (7)
6. An obstacle to a collection of baggage (11)
7. Train isn't diverted on the move (2,7)
10. Trader gets hands for the ships (11)
11. Clairvoyant hit copper in disorder (9)
14. Come back within hearing (7)
16. Calms down a wild beast (6)
19. Change the level of the beams, one hears (5)
21. Interview some of these examinees (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Duffer (9)
8. Devour (3)
9. Date (11)
11. Utter (7)
12. Claw (5)
13. Cows (6)
15. Staid (6)
17. Brief (5)
18. Criminal (7)
20. Legacy (11)
22. Forefront (3)
23. Cash-keeper (9)

Down

2. Interval (3)
3. Uplift (5)
4. Affair (6)
5. Encase (7)
6. Reprisal (11)
7. Rigorous (9)
10. Entreating (11)
11. Immoderate (9)
14. Shoe-fastening (7)
16. Uncommon (6)
19. Memoranda (5)
21. Hint (3)

Sudoku

6				5	3			
					8		4	1
	9		6	7			8	3
	3	4					5	2
				4	2			
2	5					9	6	
8	2			6	1		7	
4			7			2		
			3	2				8

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	7	9	6	3	8	2	5
6	3	5	7	2	8	9	1	4
2	9	8	1	5	4	6	7	3
1	4	2	8	3	6	7	5	9
9	7	3	5	1	2	4	6	8
8	5	6	4	7	9	2	3	1
7	2	4	3	8	5	1	9	6
3	8	1	6	9	7	5	4	2
5	6	9	2	4	1	3	8	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Relief; 8 Donate; 10 Violets; 11 Sites; 12 Even; 13 Clogs; 17 Liana; 18 Take; 22 Apace; 23 Dripped; 24 Canvas; 25 Thrown. Down: 1 Preview; 2 Allowed; 3 Rebel; 4 Corsage; 5 Party; 6 Least; 9 Esplanade; 14 Liberal; 15 Harpoon; 16 Leading; 19 Fancy; 20 Pains; 21 Light.
QUICK - Across: 7 Portal; 8 Bellow; 10 Rampage; 11 Chore; 12 Also; 13 Merry; 17 Irate; 18 Mete; 22 Lotus; 23 Outcome; 24 Concur; 25 Cognac. Down: 1 Spartan; 2 Promise; 3 Fatal; 4 Mercury; 5 Bloom; 6 Owner; 9 Defection; 14 Brusque; 15 Recount; 16 Defence; 19 Slack; 20 Atone; 21 Stool.

Quiz

1. Which singer was called the Empress of the Blues?
2. Who wrote the opera Parsifal?
3. What is a member of the Society of Jesus called?
4. Which singer and actress was born Frances Gumm?
5. What is the parliament building in Northern Ireland called?
6. What is pemmican?
7. About which leader's life did physician Li Zhisui write a book?
8. What do we call the central part of a church between the choir and the entrance?
9. What was the period 1811-20 called in Britain?
10. Of which country is Massawa the chief port?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Congo; 2 Pi; 3 Edvard Grieg; 4 Rowing; 5 Balzac; 6 Rodent; 7 Nicholas Rowe; 8 Privy Council; 9 Welsh; 10 Oliver Stone.

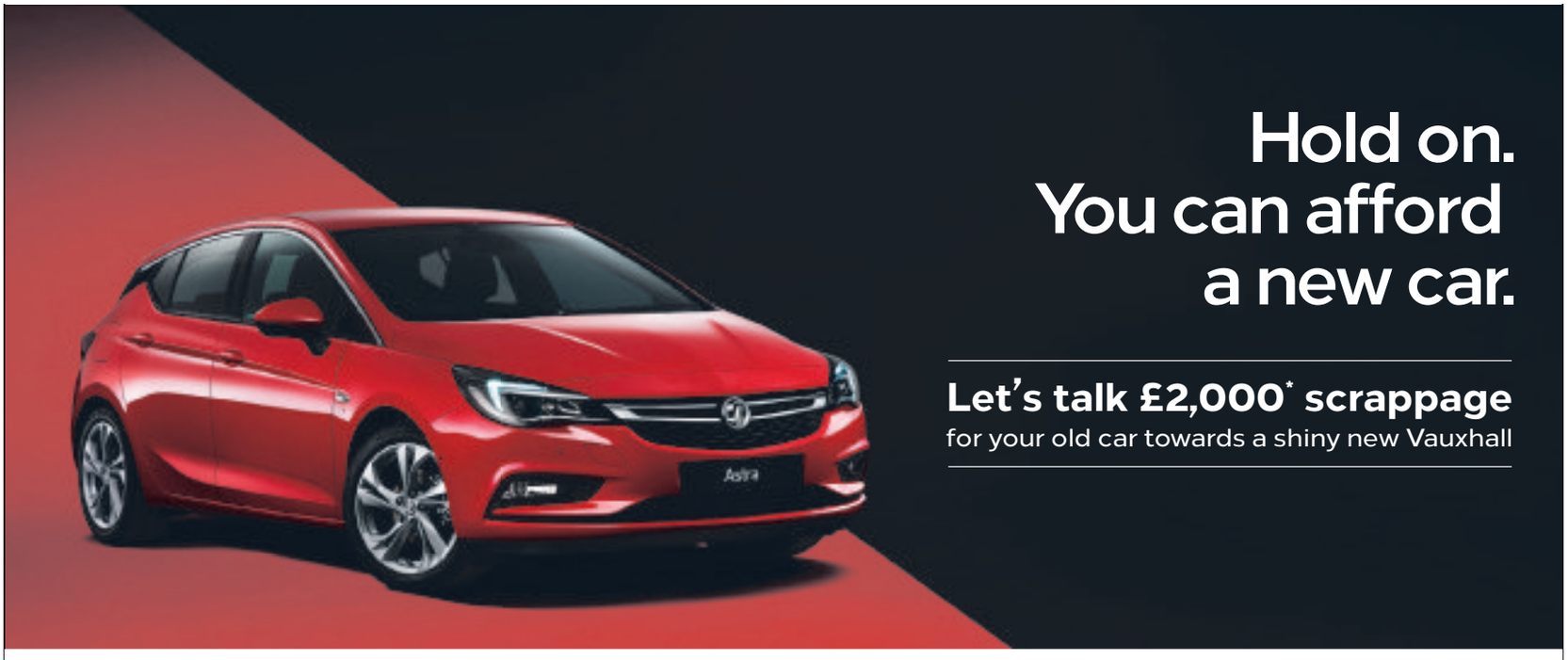
Niner: LAUNDRIES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4386 gives a fruit,
837162576 gives a second fruit,
679686 gives an Ethiopian root vegetable.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



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Capital way to step out in style

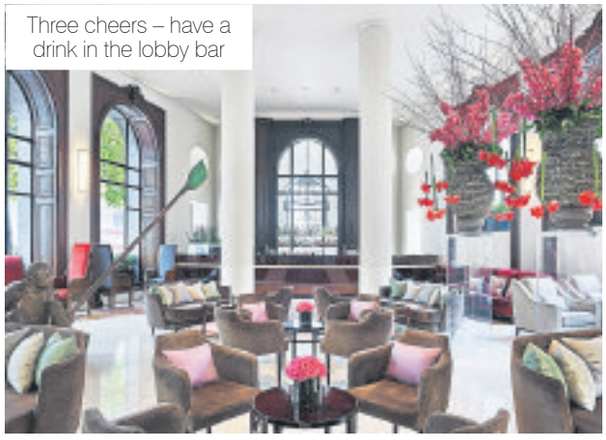
BECAUSE I'm worth it'. A phrase made famous by a certain cosmetics company and a host of beautiful celebrities – and not a bad motto for life!

We all work long days, wearing countless hats and juggling various tasks. So don't we all deserve a little indulgence every now and again? I think so – so I did. And what a treat it was!

With some quality mother-daughter time in mind, we jumped on a train and headed to London for a girls' weekend. A nice hotel, shopping therapy, fine dining and a West End show were on the itinerary.

We certainly hit the jackpot with our hotel – the stylish One Aldwych. The Grade II listed building is particularly striking both outside and in. It is a grand triangular building, dating back to 1907, which sits at the end of The Strand, opposite Waterloo Bridge.

Lovely – enjoy the sights in Covent Garden



Three cheers – have a drink in the lobby bar

UNUSUAL

Lord Glenesk, owner of the Morning Post, commissioned Anglo-French architects to build One Aldwych which led to the unusual blend of Edwardian grandeur and some Parisian elegance. It was home to the Morning Post, where Sir Winston Churchill once worked, for some 20 years. The presses were in the basement which now houses the swimming pool.

Both the impressive Lobby Bar and the Indigo restaurant were incredibly busy during our stay with a lot of the guests not actually staying at the hotel, testament to the quality of its fare and the ambience.

The Lobby Bar is a sophisticated, airy setting to sit and relax and has developed a reputation for both its cocktails and the afternoon tea.

The cocktails are especially creative. Inspired by the shows in the West End they are quite imaginative with my Jasmine Breeze, an Aladdin-themed cocktail, coming in a lamp and actually smoking. Indigo restaurant is a slightly more formal dining experience in many ways but offers a gastronomical adventure.

There are 93 large rooms and 12 suites to suit a variety of budgets from a standard room to the extravagant deluxe suites. The hotel has a health club with pool, sauna, steam room and gym. Beauty treatments are available for some real pampering – after all you are worth it.

And if it is all about location, location, location then this is the place to be. The hotel is in Covent Garden and ideally placed for both sight-seeing and Theatreland.

We whiled away the hours pottering around the independent stalls in the Covent Garden market as well as checking out some of the top-end shop chains and enjoying a leisurely lunch. There remains quite a boho and relaxed feel to Covent Garden despite it being one of the fashionable places to pass the time.

We also checked out the hustle and bustle of Leicester Square – happy to sit in the sun and watch the many colourful and varied street entertainers.

For sightseeing Trafalgar Square was a stone's throw away and the London Eye towered over nearby buildings.

The hotel is perfectly situated for shows being close to many theatres – across the road is the Lyceum theatre which is showing the Lion King. We took the short walk to the Vaudeville Theatre to see Stepping Out.

My daughter and I headed to London and One Aldwych for a girls' weekend but it could just as easily have suited couples or families looking for a city break and spoil themselves. After all, aren't we worth it?

DIANE DAVIES

No looker but versatile and practical

By Graham Breeze

Honda was confirmed as the fastest growing mainstream car brand in Europe during 2016 and the Jazz played a major part in the company's success story.

The figures make great reading for Honda with the latest data from European industry body ACEA showing total sales in Europe during 2016 were 159,126 units – a 20.8 per cent increase on 2015 and significantly outpacing the EU car market where sales grew by 6.8 per cent.

The Jazz supermini saw sales growth of 26 per cent, following the launch of the all-new model, with total registrations of 39,613 across Europe

Is it a people carrier or a hatchback was the question I was posed whilst testing the range-topping 1.3 i-VTEC EX Navi?

And the answer to that question seems to be that Honda is more than happy to fill the void between both with the third generation version.

Calling the car an EX Navi probably wasn't the best idea to come out of the company's think tank but it performs and looks a lot better than it sounds.

And the latest model is clearly recognisable as a Jazz despite the arrival of a new grille and side-sculptures

All cars in the five-model range are powered by a superb 1.3 naturally aspirated i-VTEC engine with the manual version on test capable of 118mph and 0-62mph in 11.5 seconds.

More impressively you can expect 55mpg on the combined cycle and C02 levels of 120g/km, which means running costs are low.

Once inside the cabin you can't help but be impressed, not just with the typical Honda set-up but more importantly by the space and versatility on offer.

Wheelbase has been increased by 30mm, which doesn't seem a lot but it means you get an extra 115mm of legroom in the back and that proved plenty for a couple of six footers.

Versatility

But it's Honda's "magic seat" system which will score highly with buyers looking for versatility and space, such as young families with push chairs or golfers looking to house clubs and trollies. The combinations are endless with choices to suit just about every need and importantly the whole back folds completely flat. Many Jazz opponents don't do that.

Inside the cabin you do get the feeling of being at the wheel of a much more expensive option and Honda Connect Infotainment system offers a 7inch touchscreen with Internet browsing, access to all real-time news, traffic and weather and on-line music.

On the open road this Jazz handles as well as any of the competition though I would have to say it fidgets a bit around town and on rougher surfaces.

Safety considerations are playing a bigger role in buyer's choice these days and Honda hasn't skimped in that area.

There's a Driver Assist Pack which employs a camera and mid-range radar to underpin a suite of advanced safety technologies, including the company's own City Brakes Active System as standard on top of all-round airbags.

The EX Navi on test was equipped with 16 inch alloys, smart entry and start, rear view camera, six speakers, front fog lights, automatic air conditioning, leather steering wheel and gear shift, rear privacy glass, electric windows, Bluetooth, dusk sensing lights, rain sensing wipers, reclining rear seats and cruise control.

The Jazz range pricing starts at £14,595 for the S model while the EX Navi on test was £16,605 plus an extra £500 for the metallic paint.

You won't stand out in many crowds with the Jazz but I doubt there's a more practical and versatile offering in the segment which is reflected in sales levels across Europe.

There's plenty of space inside

HONDA JAZZ, FROM £14,595

The latest model is clearly recognisable as a Jazz despite a new grille and side-sculptures

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Quietly impressive Hyundai i30 is a smooth operator . . .

By Ian Donaldson

HYUNDAI I30, FROM £16,995

You may have noticed that diesel is a dirty word these days and driving one marks you as a serial polluter who simply doesn't care about the air we breathe.

True or not – and modern diesels are clean enough not to blush at an approaching town – there's a swell of opinion against them that isn't going away.

So the car makers are sensibly making the alternative to diesel as attractive as possible. Without adding expensive battery power, that means turning back to good old petrol.

Take the new Hyundai i30, designed and built in Europe (Germany and the Czech Republic, to be precise) and aimed squarely at cars like the VW Golf and Ford Focus. So it had better be good.

Things start off well with a handsome car that's lighter than the old one and packed with the sort of technology a modern smartphone user takes for granted.

And under the bonnet of this particular i30 beats a new engine. Indeed, a new petrol engine that weighs less, produces more power and fewer pollutants than before and after a week on test showed 47mpg on the clear trip computer.

The diesel i30 would do better than that, of course, but I'd wager not better enough to persuade too many buyers to find the extra £250 needed to change fuels in this i30.

The least expensive new i30 also comes with petrol power, in the shape of a three-cylinder 1.0 litre engine and costs £16,995. This S-spec base car has alloy wheels, DAB radio, Bluetooth and electric windows all round. So not so basic at all.

At the other end of the price scale you find the £24,745 i30 in Premium SE trim and using the 1.6 litre diesel and driving through an automatic gearbox.

This one simply drips with kit, including bigger alloys, dual zone climate control, leather trim, a huge glass sunroof, sat nav and a heated steering wheel. The test car's Premium (non SE) grade felt as though it lacked little, enjoying electric adjustment of the driver's seat, heated seats for driver and front passenger, rear parking camera and a nicely clear satellite navigation system.

Safety features across the whole new i30 range include lane departure warning, forward collision warning, autonomous emergency braking and hill start assist that keeps the brakes on for a second or two as your foot moves from brake to accelerator.

It's a handsome car and packed with the technology a smartphone user takes for granted

Slip into the spacious cabin (there's a generous sized boot too) and you'll face a dashboard that looks neat and modern, if not especially stylish. Clear graphics and a logical layout are pluses and it all feels properly put together.

Hyundai tested its newcomer round the famous Nurburgring race track in Germany but thankfully resisted the temptation to turn this family car into a pretend racer (leave that to others and their GT models). The result is a car that feels sharp enough at the wheel to enjoy on twisty roads, while you know deep down the i30 really wants to slow down a bit – all the better to show off a ride that stays comfy on just about any surface.

Give it a smooth piece of road and this latest petrol-powered i30 becomes so hushed you might be in a limousine. Quietly impressive, you might say.

Your precious load could be giving you a headache!

Children on-board causes in car stress

A recent study has found that parents count travelling with children among the most stressful car-based activities.

The research, which asked 2,000 UK drivers about stress-inducing motoring habits, concluded that driving kids on the school run ranked as the most stressful motoring scenario.

The results also revealed that three of the top four most stressful journeys involve driving with children and babies in the car.

Sitting at the very top of the stress list was the dreaded school run, but in third and fourth positions were 'driving other people's children' and 'driving a newborn home from hospital', with 'driving to the airport to make a flight' the only journey to not involve children to make the top four.

A quarter of parents (25 per cent) admitted their nerves were at their worst driving with a new baby on board.

But protective parents also admitted that their top concern was other drivers causing an accident (37 per cent), closely followed by ensuring the baby was strapped in correctly (28 per cent).

Andy James, UK CEO at 1ST CENTRAL, the company responsible for the study, commented: "It is unsurprising that we feel stressed when carrying our most precious cargo.

"Our research shows that parents are not alone in feeling fraught when travelling with their children.

"We are working with Good Egg Safety to help shed some light on the subject and hope the tips will be useful to parents to help prevent stressful situations affecting their driving."

These tips include ensuring the child seat fits both the car and child correctly, planning journeys so they fit in with naptime and factoring in regular breaks, particularly when transporting young babies.

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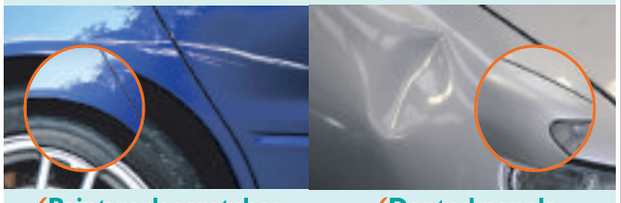

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End costly car rental experiences

We've all heard the stories, and even experienced bad and unethical practices on holiday car rental.

Now a new start-up car and rental comparison has been set up tp help put an end to those practices that have been going on for years and year.

With summer looming and many of us Brits preparing the finer details of our holidays, including our car rental, now might be a good time to take a look at www.MyTripCar.co.uk

It may just put an end to nightmarish – and often stressing and costly – car rental experiences, and ensure that the customer's expectations are exceeded.

Truth

What differs MyTripCar from the rest? It simply tells the truth, it doesn't hide any costs, it gives the real final price from the first moment, and clearly states what is the credit card hold (and options on how to reduce it), and only offers the car rental companies' official insurance (not selling worthless insurance like others do that is not accepted or recognised when ones goes to pick up the car).

"We essentially provide the user with all the information he or she needs to be able to dedide the best option for them including waiting times, pick-up location, included mileage, credit card holds, and costs of all extras he or she may wish to add," explained Giles Bones who helped set up the site.

"And we do so in a clear user-friendly manner to help him or her understand the process.

"What MyTripCar offers which is different to others car rental comparison sites, is essentially the level of transparency and the way in which we present the information to the user.

The comparison interface on MyTripCar

"We classify car rentals by car types in a simple and easy-to-understand way that means the user can see how much a particular car will cost in each of the car rental companies where there is availability.

"Also we clearly show what the insurance options will mean to the car rental cost, both with the basic insurance, as well as the car company's official insurance.

"Unlike other car rentals, we do not offer our own insurance, so as not to enter into conflict with the car rental company, which is sadly what happens with all other car rental comparison sites."

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*Tree Surgeon Specialist *Stump Grinding/Root Removal
*Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
*Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
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AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified
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Established 24 years
Gardening & Landscaping Services
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• Lawn Mowing • Fencing & Slabbing
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Professional Tree Surgeon
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No Job too Small, No Job too Big
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SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
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Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
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2 E-mail us at... sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk
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Hillandale Caravans

"I average around 10 phone calls a week from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels. "
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WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY!...

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates. "
Black Country Homes

"Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates are really pleased with their classified contract advertising response."
John - Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates.

"I am extremely happy with the Service get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Portway Fencing

Call 01902 319 191

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ClassifiedAds

Buy Local, Sell Local

funeral directors

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24 hour service
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wombournefuneralservices.co.uk

religious notices

christadelphian

GOD'S PROMISES ARE RELEVANT TODAY The promise in Eden, June 4, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

LUGGIE EGO SCOOTER Excellent condition with off board charger folds for storage £900.00 ono 07913314106

STYLE SUPERIOR mobility scooter, 3 months old, cost £800, sell for £350 any trial. 01384 348971.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

car boot sales

GIANT THURSDAY CAR BOOT SALE
This Thursday and every Thursday
6am - 2pm at
Mill Lane, Saredon WV10 7LJ
Tel: 07831 192 116

BEST SUNDAY BOOTSALE
Only £5 per Car/Van.
7AM START. Cocksparrow Lane, Cannock WS12 4PB
07890 267 041

ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sundays from 6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449, DY6 0AA. 07710 644908. www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

BIGGEST SATURDAY BOOTSALE
Catering positions available
A454 Rudge Heath between Wolverhampton and Bridgenorth By Royal Oak pub Island WV6 7EE
07890 267 041

WEDNESDAY BOOT SALE
Now at Ivy House Farm, A461, Springhill, Muckely Corner Lichfield WS14 0BX

SATURDAY BOOT SALE
Boat Lane, Muckley Corner, Lichfield WS14 0BU
07890 267041

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 35x12 caravans from £10,000.Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433

ABBEY VOGUE GTS 215 2006, two berth, excellent condition, porch awning and everything to hook up and go, illness forces sale. Must be seen. **£5,750 ono. Telephone 01384 236477.**

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

BAILEY RANGER 2000 380 / 2, 2 berth, End kitchen Excellent condition for age, porch awning and everything needed to hook up and go. **£1,800 ono. 0121 5507755.**

BAILEY SENATOR 5 INDIANA 2006 model, immaculate, fixed rear bed, many extras, **£5,950 ono. 07894 952423.**

BAILEY SENATOR VERMONT 2-berth, 2005, end bathroom, in superb condition inside and out, includes extras. **£4,950 o.n.o. 01562 829578/07809 354323.**

BUCCANEER TWO BERTH CARAVAN Two berth, 1996, 18ft, rear bathroom, all facilities, nice and clean, **£1,195. 07733 063247. 01543 505955. Cannock**

ELDDIS AVANTE 540 2010, 4 berth, fixed bed, end bathroom. Chris reg. Fully serviced. Blow-up awning, cover and many extras. In excellent condition. **£8,500 ono. 07831 355538.**

LUNAR LEXAN SE Four berth, 2009 model, end bathroom, porch awning, motor mover, spare wheel, tyron bands, hitch lock, FSH. **£8,950 ono. 01952 814939.**

REFURBISHED CARAVAN FOR SALE! Central Heating and sleeps 8, £17,995. Deposits from 10%. 12 Month Park, Borth. Call Paul 07960 944721.

STATIC CARAVAN 35 X 12, with large decking, 2 bed, 8 berth, on quiet site in Mid Wales, 2 fishing pools, 20 minutes to coast, ground rent included for 2017, no age limit, dogs welcome. **£7,950. 07555 303350.**

STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE ON ANGLESEY NORTH WALES Village location, 1 mile from beach, 2 bed with private parking, decking included, overlooking stream, pets welcome. **£11,950. Includes site fees for 2017. 07462 719969.**

STATIC CARAVAN Sited near Welshpool, secluded location, immaculate condition, large decking, outside lighting, driveway next to caravan, one owner from new. **£11,995 ono. 07838 579568.**

STATIC CARAVAN Willerby Granada, 37 x 12, 2002, 2 bedroomed caravan, with double glazing and central heating, on quiet Mid Wales site, with fishing pools. **£15,250 ono. 01686 413544.**

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996
www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/ Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

TOURING CARAVAN WANTED, no objecton to work, anything considered. Please telephone 07980 365757.

sports & leisure

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IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
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holidays

caravan sales

A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR sale from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs,storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge, DY8 4HP 01384 390183 www.severnvalleyleisure.com

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR
CORNBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AT
9TH JUNE
8.00AM - 4PM
07783 680 627

ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 4th June (also Bromsgrove every Fri) EST 1979, Waverley. Next Book Fair Sun 16th July. Stalls available for all. Home made refreshments. 01384 878 317 / 0121 550 4123

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 24th May
07957 399964

3 Home & Services

furniture

BLACK LEATHER THREE PIECE SUITE Totally unused, still packaged, unwanted gift, cost £1,250, quick sale, accept **£390** Can deliver. **07392 963517.**

CANE SUITE, 2 seater sofa, 2 swivel chairs, cushioned seats, colour beige and deep pink roses, £250. Telephone 01902 861876.

FURNITURE BY STANLEY WOOD Solid dark oak table, 2 carvers, 4 chairs, **£350.** Also dark oak Sideboard, 6ft long, 18ins wide, 4ft high, **£150.** Buyer to collect. **Telephone 01902 684425.**

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

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A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED
SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC
ALSO
GARAGE CLEARANCES
Old Enamel Signs, Petrol Cans, Old Jugs, Classic Car Parts, Bikes and Motorbikes. Anything old.
** TOP PRICES PAID **
0121 5322544 / 07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any crash magazines or your sinclair magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

Yesterdays Furniture
Best prices given for single items or houses cleared. Scrap Gold Jewellery.
Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

specialists at your service

aerials

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"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
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AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
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alarms/security

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Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
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building services

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Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

Brickwork Maintenance
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Lee
0789 147 5718 or 0121 602 5313
lee@blackcountrybrick.co.uk

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A BRILLCLEAN FOR YOUR CARPETS & SUITES
Special offers for May/June
OAP discounts.
Call Steve on 07496 922324

double glazing

A T S DOUBLE GLAZING
UPVC Doors & Windows
Very competitive prices, family run
FREE QUOTES & OAP DISCOUNTS
01922 442720 or 07783 229386

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

external rendering / insulation

EXTERIOR RENDERING, full houses, patching, textured/smooth. 40yrs exp. Stuart 01902 324727.

fencing

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SPECIAL OFFER
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Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
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Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Portway Fencing.

For great business results call
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gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden, 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

GREENALY LANDSCAPES
Fencing Decking Slabing Turfing
DBS Checked
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gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES AND SHEDS RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

painters / decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
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plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call: 07966 281957

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
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RGT Wolverhampton
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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

BLOXWICH Nice 3-bed, off road parking, working only, no DSS, £575pcm. 07447 941229.

properties wanted

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We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY
MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
*Terms and Conditions apply
01384 930 978 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

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"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
For great business results call
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ClassifiedAds
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overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

drivers

STOURBRIDGE BASED TRANSPORT COMPANY
require
(due to retirement)
CLASS 1
HGV DRAW BAR DRIVER
and
CLASS 2 HGV DRIVER
Must hold a HIAB crane lience and ALLMI qualification or similar.
Excellent rates of pay.
Apply to:
office@allenstransport.co.uk

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 17-18 JULY & 30 NOV.-1 DEC.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 16-17 SEPT.
TELFORD: 20-21 MAY & 23-24 OCTOBER
Geopace Training
Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
ocn Credit4Learning
For more info or to book: www.geopace.com
HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

full time - general

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TIMBER YARD SUPERVISOR
Required to organise all yard operations and assist with transport
Plus
YARD STAFF
To pick customer orders and load and unload HGV vehicles within our busy timber yard. Forklift licence an advantage but not essential as training will be given.
These are permanent positions for the right candidates.
Closing date for applications: **Friday 9th June 2017**
Please forward your CV to **t.blount@harlowbros.co.uk**

1000s OF JOBS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS
Register your CV today, visit:
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Term Time only + 3 weeks, 37 hours/week
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Please go to www.continuplus.org.uk for full details and application pack or call Jo Toyne, PA to Headteacher, on 01562 822463 or email jet64@cpa.worcs.sch.uk
Closing date : Friday 9th June 2017

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Only quality fully experienced installers need apply.
Top rates paid and guaranteed regular local work.
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Make sure you get your copy - it might be just what you've been waiting for.
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REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

CITROEN PICASSO
56 Reg,
MoT December.
£950 o.n.o.
07527 031128.

FIAT GRAND'E PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE
71,800 miles, blue, electric windows, alarm, MoT, new exhaust.
£1,350.
07375 697505.

FORD KA STYLE
2003, two lady owners, MoT, November 2017.
62,350 miles.
£350.
07765 837442.

JAGUAR XTYPE
2003 diesel, manual, 160k, leather, alloys, MoT very clean throughout,
£695.
07950 398750.

MAZDA MX5
1998, 115,000 Miles, Silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, MoT, long MoT, metallic paint, pas, Chrome interior
£950 ono
01902882666

RENAULT MEGANE, 2004, 43,343 miles, red, 1.6VVT, MoT, £600 ono. 07947 643454.

GOOD RUNNER

RENAULT SCENIC 1600

03 reg, silver, very reliable.

Nine months MoT.

All new brakes fitted.

£550 ono.

Telephone 07443 377584.

TOYATA YARIS 1.3

55 plate, 5dr, MoT, good condition, £1,450.

01902 861539 or 07971 069078.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1600 SALOON DESIGN

07 reg., grey, 81,000 miles, half leather, very good condition, economical.

£1,400 ono.

07966 403637 or 07967 708611.

GOOD RUNNER

VAUXHALL VECTRA

02 reg, MoT till June 2018, good condition for age.

£495 ono.

01384 270802 or

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KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3000 Box 419673**

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JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715**

ALISON 37, animal loving female who enjoys a quiet life, cooking, seeks older male 40-60yrs to enjoy meals out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427101**

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EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3020 Box 421375**

JOY happily married, bi curious, blonde hair, blue eyes, big boobs, seeks someone to join in a bit of bedroom fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426845**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3004 Box 422365**

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426839**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3032 Box 425979**

ANNE blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks males for no strings adult fun! Call and leave a number for me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426843**

JASMINE, 34yrs, non smoking first time dater! Easy going, attractive and hard working. Due to work commitments I'm looking for a no strings companion any age. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. **Tel: 0906 515 3012 Box 426201**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426823**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3028 Box 426205**

TRISH, 44, tall slim, good looking, GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427021**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3040 Box 426851**

CAROLINE, attractive mature lady, various interests, hoping to meet a smart gent for socialising, perhaps leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426347**

EMILY, kind caring lady, recently widowed and lonely. I am 57yrs old and hoping to chat with a nice chap 60+. Please text me. **Text Only. Mailbox 4164240**

FEMALE Doctor, 60, Asian, divorced, youthful and broad minded, likes eating out, holidays, keep fit and meditation. Very busy but text to find out more. **Text only Mailbox: 5840579**

TOKKIA, Nigerian lady, very attractive with attractive, caring and kind. I'm a good cook and would love to find a nice man to spoil and pamper. I am late 50s but look young and fit. Seeking gent 58+. **Text Only. Mailbox 4025379**

ATTRACTIVE Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425323**

MANDY, 64yrs but still fit and sexy. Hoping to meet younger local lad for good daytime fun. Chats and texts any time. **TEXT ONLY. Box: 4050784**

JANE, 49, young looking attractive female looking to liven life up at bit with similar interesting, spontaneous man. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426705**

JANET tall beautiful brunette, slim 12, separated, enjoys life, no hang-ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with similar guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426807**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426769**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426757**

CARIBBEAN woman, 57 years young, medium build, WLTM a nice man, 55-63, for days out socialising, romance, non smoker. **Text only. Mailbox: 5774104**

SARAH, 38, nice looking blue-eyed slim brunette, WLTM similar lonely male for fun times hopefully leading to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426709**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426301**

CATHY, 40s, slim attractive lady with an open-minded attitude to life, and WLTM a man of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426579**

SUSAN, 41, sophisticated, confident, discreet, attractive female seeking professional male over 38 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426557**

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426595**

KAREN, 46, witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426335**

BROWN eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5806373**

LOUISE, 40s, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into my life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426321**

FARMERS daughter, 69, single, likes heavy horses, animals, meals out, GSOH, friendship only, 65-75. **Text only. Mailbox: 5799589**

JAN, 46, lonely divorced romantic female, brown hair, green eyes, curvy feminine figure, employed, OHAC, WLTM attentive male for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426255**

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426253**

MATURE lady 70s, various interests but a bit lonely, hoping to meet a gent to cheer me up, come on, we can have some fun together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426349**

JANINE 40yrs, very cute petite artistic female who has a real passion for life, WLTM similarly passionate male for tactile LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426125**

GENTS, please call me if you are looking to meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the theatre, socialising etc. You can call or text me. I promise to reply, I'm very genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426345**

JACKIE is 54yrs and an attractive easygoing brunette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chap for some fun, dates, chats, text or call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426343**

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341**

ATTRACTIVE blonde lady, 54yrs, loyal, romantic and solvent hoping to meet a gent with GSOH for romance, sensual times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426341**

Single Men

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, been hurt in the past, looking for someone special, 30-42, ACA, single mums are welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427135**

ADVENTUROUS 36 year old, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

MALE 40 looking for sexy adventurous lady for some mad Summer time partying at my barn conversion with hot tub and countryside. **Text only. Mailbox: 5850530**

GEOFF 46, 5ft 10in, slim build, brown hair, blue eyes, N/S, honest, caring, likes cinema, walking, looking for female, 35-52, for relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 4172607**

MALE 73, GSOH, looking for a lady any age. I like driving, days out, country walks and possible holidays. **Text only. Mailbox: 5847956**

PHIL, 60, 5ft10, slim build, from Wolvs, OHOC, looking for a female, 18-55, for friendship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427121**

IAN, 65, single, retired, GSOH, outdoor type, loves dogs and all animals, walking, countryside, meals out, cinema, theatre and visiting different places. WLTM lady with GSOH to share interests. Can travel anywhere. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426989**

MALE, 60, looking for a lady, 49-60, to take on my bike/car for days out/meals, to strike up a friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5838916**

STU, 42, medium build, 6ft, WLTM a woman, 25-45, for fun, friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426877**

YOUNG 60, West Midlands male, 5ft8, grey hair, wear specs, GSOH, sexy Scorpion, broad minded, slim to medium build, varied interests, seeking a genuine, honest, sexy lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426137**

STUART ex PE Teacher looking for lady to share good times with. Have GSOH, love days out and weekends away, eating out, walking, shopping. **Text only. Mailbox: 5833328**

MALE, 50s, slim, OHAC, from Wolverhampton, looking for a fun lady for a no-strings relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420265**

MALE, 60s, 5ft10, slim build, looking to meet female, for a mature adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426053**

YOUNG looking 63 year old male, GSOH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun and friendship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243**

32 year old male looking for a nice lady for fun, maybe more. **Text only. Mailbox: 5831443**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

YOUNG 60 West Midlands male, 5ft 8ins, grey hair, slim to medium build, sexy Scorpio, GSOH, broadminded, seeking an honest sexy lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426621**

MALE N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

CARING male, 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

EASYGOING male, 63, genuine, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

SINGLE male, n/s, likes music, films, driving, nights in, dining out, trips, WLTM lady, 50-70, looks unimportant, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424927**

GENTLEMAN wishes to meet nice lady 45-60, West Midlands area. My interests are meals out, daytrips, music and reading. **Text only. Mailbox: 5817771**

GENUINE Stoke male 50s, friendly and easygoing, enjoys weekends away, seeks slim attractive female 35 to 50 for friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5817202**

MARK, single, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, lots of interests, sport, music, cinema, long walks, eating out, looking to meet that special lady. If that sounds like you please get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426461**

SLIM male, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking that special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415697**

I enjoy the great outdoors with the dog, 36 years old, mature with a caring nature looking for a female age 28-48 for friendship, possible relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5803493**

CARING male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803**

IAN, 5ft6, looking for somebody, 18-60, for general good fun times, days out, nights out, meals, sightseeing and visiting various parts of the country. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426437**

MALE 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737**

40 year old Hungarian male, 5ft8, slim, dark blond hair, blue eyes, WLTM a lady 30-45 to spend some time together for friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5800702**

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Lining up for a team picture back in 1955

Wightwick Cricket Club Express & Star KO champions in 1968

Pete Connelly, vice-chairman, Eve Connelly, 11, Alan Russell, life member, George Turner, 10, and chairman Tim Banks

Wightwick 2nd XI Chronicle Cup Winners in 1973

Good innings! Cricket club in 70-year run

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Jessica Labhart

IT had humble beginnings – five men met in a pub and each put a pound in to set up a cricket club.

Now, 70 years later, the Wightwick and Finchfield Cricket Club is appealing for former members to get in touch and help them celebrate this special milestone – with one of the founder members due to attend.

The club began in 1947 when five men, returning from fighting in the Second World War, met at The Mermaid Pub, on Bridgnorth Road and decided to set up a cricket club.

Each of them put a pound in the kitty to begin the set-up of the club, which they hoped would go some way in uniting the post-war community and bring some much-needed leisure and sporting time into the area.

Popular

John Hulme, Bill Bolle, John Tuner, Ron Hampton and Fred Meredith each put their pound in. A public meeting in 1948 officially recognised the club as Wightwick Cricket Club and their first ground was the meadow in front of the then Castlecroft Hotel. It later joined with Finchfield Cricket Club in 1988 and became the club it is today.

Indeed, it now boasts hundreds of members, with thriving adult and youngster teams who play out of their home on Castlecroft Road.

Over the years the club has also hosted several international teams including Sri Lanka, Fiji, East Africa, Singapore and Argentina.

Chairman Tim Banks said: "The club is incredibly popular in the community. We welcome people of all ages to come and try out the sport and take part in the social events that we put on regularly. It's a real family club and still operates in the spirit in which it was intended all those years ago."

The group is holding a reunion event on July 14 at the clubhouse to recognise the contribution former members made to the club. One of the founder members, John Hulme, who is in his 90s and lives in Finchfield, is due to attend.

Lifetime member Alan Russell, in his 70s, has been a member for more than 30 years. He said: "It's so important that we get the former members back together to show how the club has developed. We are particularly looking forward to welcoming John back, as I imagine it has changed quite a lot since he was last here!"

The clubhouse was totally redeveloped in 2005, after £250,000 was sourced by, the then, chairman, Pete Connelly.

Now, the clubhouse is no longer known as 'the wooden hut' – but includes a bar, seating area and other facilities.

Mr Connelly said: "The club has stood the test of time because of the current and former members who knew and continue to recognise that it would always be an important part of the community's life."

His daughter, Eve, aged 11, plays in one of the junior teams. She said: "Cricket is just so much fun."

Anyone who would like to attend the event should email wandfcc@outlook.com.

Wolves All Stars play in hospital fundraiser

HOSPITAL staff are getting on the ball for a charity football match at Chasetown FC. Cardiac theatre will line up against a team of Wolves All Stars at the Scholars ground in Queen Street, on Sunday, August 13.

The aim is to raise as much money as possible for the coronary aftercare support group at New Cross hospital. Proceeds will be used to buy vital equipment for the heart and lung centre. The kick off time has yet to be confirmed, but ticket prices will be £5 with under-10s admitted for free.

Chris Jukes, Operating Department Practitioner said the match was cardiothoracic theatre's first fundraising venture. If the big game is a success they will be looking to stage a match every year.

He said: "I have been here for just over three years. In this time we have seen cuts after cuts on our spending and less and less new equipment is being brought through. One specific piece of equipment we would like to put some money towards would be a new Transesophageal Echocardiogram machine (TOE). The TOE machine is a very valuable piece of equipment but unfortunately we do not have enough to ensure the highest level of treatment to patients while in theatres. Due to only having two we are unable to use it for every patient when three theatres are running."

Flanagan looks to end injury woes

WALSALL'S Reece Flanagan has vowed to work through the summer to ensure he is fully fit in time for pre-season. The 22-year-old has endured an injury-blighted year after first tearing his anterior cruciate knee ligament back in April 2016.

Flanagan battled his way back to full fitness only to then dislocate his shoulder in his first game back for the development squad. But after recently taking part in a two-day training block, the midfielder believes his injury woes will soon be firmly in the past.

"The aim is to come back for pre-season as normal," he said. "I need to make sure I build strength over the summer. But I can start earlier with my fitness than the rest of the lads this season. We've got another six weeks until we start, so I can build my fitness ahead of pre-season."

Boss Jon Whitney said Walsall would be careful how they monitored Flanagan's shoulder.

"We'll give it as long as we can before we start to put that through real force," he said.

Rutter well placed for spot on TT podium

THE biggest road race of the year is almost upon us – and Brierley Hill-born Michael Rutter has not been better placed in many years to snatch at least a podium.

Rutter remains one of the best in the business and, after a stunning North West 200 in Northern Ireland, when he secured three podiums as well as a 14th victory, many are touting good things at the Isle of Man TT.

But, as ever, the 45-year-old is keeping his feet well and truly on the ground, particularly as he had to squeeze in another National Superstock 1000 race in over the bank holiday weekend before making the trip across the Irish Sea.

"A lot people having been asking me if I fancy a podium because of how well the North West went but the TT is just a completely different place," he said.

Rutter this will be competing in three different classes this year, which equates to five races. But he is sure to be challenging the top five, at least, in the classes he has confirmed – the Superbike, Superstock and Lightweight, or Supertwin, classes.

Rutter will be be racing a Bathams/SMT BMW on in the Superbike and Superstock, and a Paton in the Lightweight. Rutter will in action on his superbike on June 3 and June 9, the superstock June 5 and lightweight June 7.

Sport

What an innings! Club celebrates 70 not out

Page 39

Byfield spars with Sahota for big return

DUDLEY'S Les Byfield has gone back to his roots ahead of his return to the ring on home turf next week.

He will lace on his gloves again at the Venue, in Dudley town centre, next Friday (June 9). The 30-year-old super featherweight, from Netherton, has had choices to make after the pro boxers section at Priory Park Boxing Club closed at the turn of the year.

'The Minefield' has done the bulk of his training for this one with Jason Astley, who used to coach him. Astley works on the security staff for Hall of Fame promoter Frank Warren, so has arranged for sparring sessions with the highly-rated Sanjeev Sahota.

Byfield has reaped the benefits and is now dead set on putting those improvements into action when Russell Midgley is the other man in the squared circle for a four-rounder.

He said: "I've had a little bit of a rest and a think about things, what with Priory Park closing to the pros. I'm back at it now, I'd never go back to unlicensed boxing after this and all I want to do is to improve. I've had a couple of niggling injuries, but they are all gone.

"I'm feeling good, Jason used to train me for all of my unlicensed fights so he knows me better than anyone and we get on well. I've gone back to my roots and it's what I needed.

"I've improved as a pro but, to a point, I've stopped the progression that got me to that level. Me and Jason are getting the basics right again.

"He's got a lot of contacts in the sport, so I've been down sparring with Sanjeev. He's a strong lad, technically good. I enjoyed it, I had about five rounds with him. Now I need to be more elusive in there. We are working on those things."

Tickets, at £35 and £50 ringside, are available by calling 07976 283 157.

Marathon effort to keep up with DK runner Jones

THE Bank Holiday weekend gave athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club plenty of opportunities north and south.

With the Rock n Roll Liverpool 5k and half marathon taking place over the Saturday and Sunday there was the attractive prospect of a 5k warm up followed by a 13.1 mile race 24 hours later. Bob Jones was first off the blocks recording 23.15 in the 5k and doubled up with a massive PB of 1.48.32 in the half marathon. Aimee Pugh ran 44.29 in the 5k and 2.20.30 in the half. Of the ladies taking part in just the half marathon, Helen Hickman led the group home in 1.52. 55, a second ahead of Marie Latreche. Julie Allen finished in 1.57.21, Cindy Froggat in the same time, Wendy Martin in 2.20.56 and Flora Bianco in 2.22.14.

Roger Beddard finished the Edinburgh half in 1.51.45.

Dave Norman was first back for the club in the Vitality Westminster Mile in London on Sunday in 5.36 and the 10k a day later in 39.28. Andrew Weaver ran the mile in 6.05 and the 10k in 45.11. Mark Homer did the 10k in 41.30.

Denny up for British challenge fight

Rowley Regis fighter Tyler Denny

UNBEATEN Rowley Regis fighter Tyler Denny will contest the British Challenge middleweight title with Mike Byles with the winner likely to land a Midlands title shot.

Denny headlines the pro boxing show called 'Ruthless Rising' at the Venue in Dudley on Friday June 9.

Nicknamed 'Ruthless,' the 25-year-old steps to eight rounds for the first time after coming through six at the same venue last time out, when he overcame William Warburton on points. Byles, 29, and

Boxing

boxing out of Coventry, has twice been due to challenge for the area crown against then-champion Craig Cunningham but the fights didn't happen, due to respective injuries.

He'll see the scalp of Denny as a route back to contention and a strap to claim before resuming his hunt for the now-vacant Midlands honours. The under-card will provide four-round action for Walsall Wood's Shaun Cooper, aka 'The Scorpion', another hometown hero, 30-year-old 'Minefield' Les Byfield, Brummie Kane Baker and Leicester fighter CJ Challenger.

Byfield steps through the ropes after a seven-month absence to resume his campaign in the super featherweight division, although he may yet drop down to feather.

Tickets are £35 and £50 ringside with waitress service. Call 07976 283 157 or contact any of the home corner boxers on Facebook.

HEROIC CUP DUO ON MOVE

GLASSBOYS have been hit by the loss of two influential performers with wide-man Chris Lait and top goalscorer Luke Benbow both agreeing to sign for National League side Solihull Moors.

After re-joining the club for a second stint last summer, Benbow netted 39 times in total during the 2016-17 campaign, and his tally of 32 in the Evo-Stik NPL Premier Division made him the Division's top scorer.

He also scored five goals in Stourbridge's FA Cup run, including two in the First Round replay win at home to Whitehawk. His impact led to him collecting four awards at the club's end of season presentation – Supporters' Player of the Year, Players' Player of the Year, Manager's Player of the Year, and the Man of the Match Trophy.

Lait spent nearly two-and-a-half years at Stourbridge. The winger suffered an injury-hit season in 2016-17 and he consequently found it difficult to capture his best form much of the time, however, he played a significant part in the Glassboys' FA Cup adventure, scoring at Mickleover Sports in the Second Qualifying Round. He then lashed in the opening goal in the 3-0 replay victory over Whitehawk.

Departures

He missed most of the last three months of the season as Gary Hackett's men missed out on promotion with a play-off final defeat.

Hackett commented: "That's football. A part of the game is dealing with departures, so we'll be doing everything we can to make sure whoever leaves is replaced. We wish them both well. Luke has been fantastic and I am sure he has every chance of doing well in the National League."

Stourbridge FC will be holding trials for the under-18s Midland Floodlit Youth League team this month over four dates. Youth team boss Kieran Bustin is inviting applications from players to take part in trials at Old Halesonians Rugby Club on Tuesday (June 6), then June 8, 13 and 15 from 6.30pm to 8.30 pm. Contact Kieran Bustin at kieranbustin@hotmail.co.uk with football c.v.

Lakeside sink gutsy Heathens

Heathens rider Ryan Burton during the narrow defeat at Lakeside

CRADLEY just missed out on a consolation point as they slipped to a 49-41 loss at Lakeside. They put in a gutsy display around the notoriously tricky circuit – but it was not quite enough as a faultless maximum from Zach Wajtknecht led the hosts to victory.

It was a strong all-around team display from Will Pottinger's side as they ran just six last places over the course of the afternoon.

But they also accounted for just two race wins – both from impressive reserve Conor Dwyer – as the Hammers' powerhouse top three of Wajtknecht, Ben Morley and Paul Hurry made all the difference.

Team boss Pottinger admitted they were frustrated to leave with no points to show for their efforts. "We're slightly disappointed because we were hanging in there, but we went eight points down at the wrong time and couldn't get it back," he said.

"We ran them close and on another day we could have got something."

LAKESIDE: Zach Wajtknecht 15, Paul Hurry 11+1, Ben Morley 11, Alfie Bowtell 8, Jamie Couzins 2, Nick Laurence 2, Alex Spooner 0.

CRADLEY: Tom Perry 10, Conor Dwyer 8+2, Dan Greenwood 7, Danny Ayres 6, Joe Lawlor 5+3, Luke Harris 4+2, Ryan Burton 1+1.

Monday night's Monmore meeting against Belle Vue was called off and has yet to be rearranged.

Stour lose top spot after first defeat

STOURBRIDGE conceded their first defeat of the season to Stratford-Upon-Avon despite last weekend posting their highest first innings total so far.

Three victories and a tie put them on the top of the Birmingham and District League division three. The dropped points on Saturday sees Stour slip down to third place, with Stratford moving into second behind Newport.

Stour skipper Josh Banks decided to bat first. His plans took an early blow as the experienced Harshad Patel was bowled for just five in the second over by Mike Brown .

Alex Bingham and the new signing Jujhar Johal, thrust into the number three spot steadied the ship for the visitors. Bingham, looking solid, suddenly skied a delivery from Jonathan Gill for 20 with the total at 45 off 16 overs.

At 97 off 29 overs, Stour controversially lost Johal for 45, nicking Derrick Perry to the keeper. The best partnership between Zain Ul Hassan and Matt Bradley produced 74 off 72 balls before the latter Bradley was smartly stumped off Perry for 27 with the total on 171 with nine overs remaining.

In the closing overs Stour lost Ul Hassan caught on the boundary (74), the aggressive Jade Richter (34 off balls 21 balls), and Richard Bradley for a single. Two more wickets were lost in the 48th over and Stour ended up on 244-9.

The home side's openers replied with a thumping stand of 94 off 18 overs. The spin of Dominic O'Reilly provided the eventual breakthrough John Price, lbw for 50, while his partner Rob West was stumped by Matt Bradley for 47 off Johal, who returned 4-29 off 10 overs.

The visitors eked out five wickets for 148 runs on a slow wicket, all falling to spin, but No3 David Baily and number six Adrian Witts resisted everything Stour could throw at them. They put on 95 with Witts 43 off 47 balls before he was run out in the penultimate over. Baily (67 no) stroked the winning runs.

BCT's Keith picks up a bronze medal

KEITH Bate from Black Country Triathletes brought home a medal this weekend finishing third in his category (60-64) and taking bronze in the British Triathlon Age Group Sprint Distance Triathlon Championships.

The race was held at Strathclyde Park and involved a 750m open water swim, a 20km bike and a 5km run. Bate finished in a time of 1:14:19 just 14 seconds off 2nd place with a 14:18 min swim, 36:52min bike and a 21:14min run.

★★★

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